

Rival Mujahidin forces pound Afghan capital with shells and rockets

Rebels battle in Kabul streets

By Christopher Thomas
in Kabul
and Zahid Hussain
in Islamabad

KABUL was pounded by rocket and artillery fire yesterday as Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's fundamentalist forces launched a hopeless but devastating battle to seize the capital from rival Mujahidin fighters.

His heavily outnumbered men were beaten back in close-range gun battles throughout the city. By last night Mr Hekmatyar's men still held the interior ministry and other installations.

The forces headed by Ahmad Shah Masood held all other ministries and most other key installations, including the central armoury. The capital echoed all day with pounding guns and exploding shells landing in the heart of the town from positions to the south. Some of Mr Hekmatyar's men occupied hills overlooking the city.

Others moved towards the presidential palace where they fought gun battles with fighters from Mr Masood's Jamiat-Islami party. Mr Hekmatyar's artillery and mortar shells smashed into an outbuilding of the Bulgarian embassy, destroyed a university building and wrecked suburban houses. In the chaos it was impossible to assess the number of dead. Puffs of smoke rose from every corner of the capital. While the battle raged the Mujahidin political parties based in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar dithered and squabbled as they did for nearly 14 years of war. They were meant to have sent a technical team by now to set up a council of Mujahidin commanders, politicians and intellectuals to fill the power vacuum, but there was no sign of them yesterday. Sibghatullah Mujadidi, head of the 50-member interim conference announced by Afghan rebel leaders on Friday, postponed his departure



Grim advance: Mujahidin fighters advancing against rival fundamentalist guerrillas near the presidential palace in Kabul yesterday

to Kabul following Mr Hekmatyar's warning that the plane carrying him would be shot down.

Mr Mujadidi, 65, leader of the moderate National Salvation Front, was scheduled to fly to Kabul by Pakistani air force yesterday to take over the government. Mujahidin sources in Peshawar said that he would fly to Kabul soon but no date has yet been set. The Pakistani foreign ministry said that Pakistan would co-operate fully with the council. Leaders of

the ten Mujahidin groups had agreed on Friday to form an interim conference to replace the communist regime in Kabul. The interim council was to be replaced after two months by an interim government with Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-Islami, as president. But the agreement fell apart after Mr Hekmatyar and an Iranian-based Shia group Hezb-i-Wahadat rejected it. The United Nations, whose belated decision to deal directly with the commanders

instead of the chaotic Peshawar groups has come to nothing, is scrambling to catch up with events. Rival checkpoints made travel hazardous yesterday. A freelance camera crew working for ITN narrowly escaped injury when six bullets smashed through the back window of their taxi after they had driven through a rebel checkpoint. Another journalist's driver was shot in the hip. Former President Najibullah's office was put on display to journalists.

Mujahidin had torn the former puppet president's files and strewn them on the carpet. Desks were overturned. It was a display of anger more than looting. Mr Hekmatyar issued a statement from his Peshawar office rejecting the latest peace plan put forward by the other six parties. He described the proposed ruling commission, which would have 50 members comprising 30 commanders, 10 politicians and 10 intellectuals, as redundant. In a radio mes-

sage from Afghanistan he said that he would soon announce his own government. He claimed that his forces had also arrested General Rashid Dostum, chief of the Uzbek militia allied to Mr Masood. While the Peshawar parties debated and argued over details Mr Masood took the initiative in a skilled operation that began late on Saturday morning.

Silent invasion, page 9
Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Russia angered by scale of Chernobyl cover-up

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY AND IGOR BARANOVSKY IN MOSCOW

SIX years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, shocking new facts have emerged about the scale and cynicism of the Soviet cover-up.

They show that the leaders of the country, including President Gorbachev, knowingly published false figures, which underestimated the number of casualties by 90 per cent, and permitted the distribution of large quantities of contaminated meat and milk across the country.

Shortly before this became public, the Russian government apparently felt secure enough, or desperate enough, to authorise the resumption of much of Russia's nuclear power programme, frozen after the Chernobyl inquiry.

The decision, signed by Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, on March 26, has not yet been published. It requests the finance ministry to release funds for the construction, or reconstruction of six power stations of the Chernobyl type. The building programme is to be continued, according to the media, despite evidence that the Chernobyl-type reactors are unsafe and cannot be improved by modification.

Details of the original Chernobyl cover-up were

published in *Izvestia* by Alla Yaroshinskaya, a Russian journalist who saw all Chernobyl-related documents by virtue of her membership of a Soviet parliamentary committee investigating the aftermath of the disaster. All institutions co-operated with the investigation, except the Communist party's central committee, which refused to release minutes of the politburo's Chernobyl commission.

This was the group set up by President Gorbachev three days after the disaster and chaired by the then prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.



Gorbachev: knowingly published false figures

Miss Yaroshinskaya was granted access only after the Communist party was banned and President Yeltsin ordered the opening of the archives. She describes what she found as "a deception as all-embracing as the disaster itself".

"Lie No 1" relates to the numbers affected by radiation. Between May 4 and May 12, information submitted to the committee showed the number of people taken to hospital in connection with the disaster rising from 1,882 people to 10,198. Of these 345 were diagnosed as suffering from radiation sickness. About one-quarter of those in hospital were children. Official figures given to the press two months later said that 197 people — all former staff at the plant — were suffering from "acute radiation sickness" of whom 28 had died.

The minutes of the politburo commission show that the numbers were reduced by changing the definition of radiation sickness. On May 8, the permitted degree of exposure was raised "ten times, and in some cases 50 times. Thus, thousands of our fellow

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IMF ready, page 7

Leeds take league title

Leeds United have won the Football League for the first time since 1974, beating Manchester United to the championship after a race lasting for most of the season.

A 3-2 victory over Sheffield United gave Leeds their triumph but it was not until their rivals had lost 2-0 at Liverpool, in a match that began almost three and a half hours later, that they knew they could not be caught.

Both teams have a match to play but Leeds are four points ahead. The Leeds game contained an own goal apiece, with Brian Gayle's header past his side's goalkeeper hitting Manchester United's chances of a first championship in 25 years. Page 24

Mexico charges

The Mexican government announced criminal proceedings against nine officials of Pemex, the state oil company, and the Guadalajara city authority over the 190 deaths in last week's sewer system explosion. Page 8

Labour dispute

Labour party officials were accused of trying to change the leadership election rules to ensure that Bryan Gould receives enough votes to force a contest. Page 2

G7 clash over how to speed world economy

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY and Japan rejected US demands that they should do more to speed up the world economy as finance ministers from the world's seven richest nations (G7) gathered in Washington.

Before what promised to be an acrimonious series of meetings on the world economy and aid for Russia, Germany and Japan made it clear that they plan no changes in economic policy. Japan is also lukewarm about a \$24 billion (£14bn) package designed to stabilise the Russian economy. It is still in dispute over the return of Japanese islands seized by the former USSR at the end of the second world war.

Britain is expected to call for sweeping reforms to the Russian economy before the aid package is settled.

Germany firm, page 15
Comment, page 17

Home victims to sue

BUILDING societies, including the top-performing Cheltenham & Gloucester, are facing legal action over their role in an investment scandal that has left thousands of people, mostly elderly, facing the loss of their homes.

Solicitors of those who have lost money on home income plans believe that court action

is the only way to win adequate compensation. The victims took out loans on their homes to provide extra income but their investments dropped in value while interest rates soared, leaving them with debts that can be met only by selling their homes.

Investment flop, page 5

Hooliganism blamed for nine Le Mans deaths

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE CITY of Le Mans yesterday counted the cost of a weekend that claimed the lives of nine motorcycle fans, including a Briton, and left more than 50 others injured.

A French government minister denounced the "hooliganism" that caused a series of fatal traffic accidents. The future of the Le Mans endurance race, which has become an annual pilgrimage for Europe's bikers attracting about 50,000 spectators every year, could be under threat. Improved security measures have failed to curb widespread drunkenness and the hazardous "rodeos" involving riders on powerful machines.

Hundreds of British motorcycle enthusiasts make the journey across the Channel to Le Mans each year.

Some go as spectators, but many go to test their daring and skill on the hairpin bends, at up to 170 mph.

According to the local police, Timothy Donaldson, 36, from Buckingham, was the first to die as he raced down a straight section of the course that is open to the public. He collided with a German rider, who was also killed. The six other victims are understood to have been French, while a dead man found close to the track but apparently not involved in any of the accidents has yet to be identified.

Speaking in Le Mans yesterday after hurrying to the scene, Georges Sarre, the transport minister, said he was "horrified" by what had taken place on Saturday night. "It seems to have been the result of too much beer, high speed and a type of delinquent competition," he said. His immediate objective was to organise the orderly departure of the tens of thousands of spectators.

Robert Jarry, the mayor of Le Mans, agreed that heavy drinking and reckless driving were to blame for the worst tragedy in the history of the race.

Officials said that some fans had got out of control, staging impromptu races and risky displays of stunt riding. French television showed footage of bikers doing extravagant "wheelies", egged on by boisterous spectators, some of whom appeared drunk.

Stewart Glass, 22, a London dispatch-rider who at the last minute decided not to attend Le Mans this year, said that for many motorcyclists the event was an opportunity for "a weekend away, cheap beer and the chance to prove you can take a bend at high speed and get away with it. People challenge each other and after a few beers believe they can do anything," he said.

While M Jarry insisted that the authorities had made an effort to restrict the sale of alcohol inside Le Mans, he acknowledged that the measures had not prevented some drunkenness. A spokesman for the organisers of the race, the Western Automobile Club, said that every year the range of entertainments for fans was increased. "What more can we do? It's a problem of behaviour."

Jean-Pierre Mougin, the French Motorcycling Federation's president, said the horrifying series of accidents demanded an investigation by all concerned with the 24-hour race. "There is no miracle solution, but perhaps banning the race is the answer, and that is what some people are thinking now."

Carl Fogarty and Terry Rymer, of Britain, paired with the Belgian, Michel Simul, won the 24-hour race yesterday on a Kawasaki.

Biffen supports a woman Speaker

By Jill Sherman
Political Correspondent

BETTY Boothroyd's chances of becoming the first Madam Speaker were given a boost last night when it emerged that John Biffen, former Tory cabinet minister will propose her in today's election.

Miss Boothroyd, Labour MP for West Bromwich West, is still regarded as the front runner for the Speakership after the Tories' failure to drum up enough support for one candidate to provide an effective challenger.

Senior Tory backbenchers admitted yesterday that it was now highly unlikely that the three of the four Tory candidates still in the ring, Terence Higgins, Sir Giles Shaw, Peter Brooke and Paul Channon, would decide to rally round one of their number and withdraw.

Mr Biffen's decision to propose Miss Boothroyd may at the last minute dissuade Conservatives from trying to force a division in support of their own choice, the first for 40 years, and the Labour MP could be elected in the more traditional way — unopposed. But last night all four Tories were still in the running.

Miss Boothroyd's campaign team pointed out yesterday that the government had made little serious attempt behind the scenes to muster support for one candidate. It is said that between 12 and 20 Tories are expected to vote for her.

Even the Tory newspapers were coming out in favour of the former Tiller girl, the team said. If the minority parties also rallied round Miss Boothroyd, she was likely to sweep the field.

The one uncertainty is whether all Labour MPs may back her. A dozen MPs may prefer to back a male Tory rather than see a woman speaker. If Labour support falls short and Tories are persuaded to be loyal, the contest could prove very close.

Despite, or because of, speculation late last week that Peter Brooke, the former Northern Ireland secretary was no longer a serious contender, his team started campaigning vigorously for him over the weekend, tipping him as the principal challenger.

It was said that many of the

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Lord St John, page 10

TODAY IN THE TIMES

FLYING OFF ON HOLIDAY



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Life & Times
Page 6

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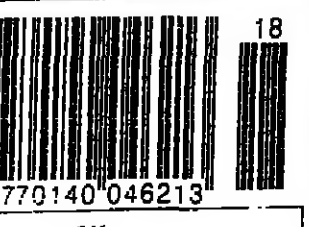
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Livingstone accuses party of stitch-up to force vote

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership election was thrown into further turmoil last night with allegations of a "stitch-up" to ensure that Bryan Gould secured sufficient nominations to force a contest.

Confusion over a last-minute rule "clarification" is expected to be exploited at a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party this morning, although party officials will do their utmost to avoid an embarrassing debate.

The open dispute between candidates came as leaders of Britain's second largest union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, stood by their decision not to hold a postal ballot, but promised the widest possible consultation.

Mr Gould, a contender for both the leadership and deputy, admitted in a television interview that he had contacted the party's organiser, Joyce Gould, last Wednesday to help his chances of securing enough support by Tuesday's deadline to challenge John Smith, the front runner. As a result, Ms Gould sent a letter to candidates outlining a rule change to allow second preferences, which the party was then forced to retract on Saturday because it was unconstitutional.

Over the weekend, party officials were briefing journalists to "clarify" the rule. Party sources said yesterday that candidates would be able to withdraw a nomination and replace it with another if they felt their first choice was unlikely to get enough support to enter the contest. Under party rules, each candidate has to secure 55 nominations, 20 per cent of

Labour MPs to compete. Ken Livingstone, the third Leadership candidate, who is unlikely to get enough nominations to enter the contest, accused party officials of engineering "the stitch-up of all time", and creating unnecessary confusion.

"Clear evidence has now emerged that party officials and possibly MPs have acted in a way which favours the attempt to get some candidates on to the ballot paper for the leadership while keeping others off."

Mr Livingstone claims he has support from about 28 MPs while Mr Gould has about 50. Mr Livingstone is convinced that both Mr Smith and Mr Gould's camps are trying to squeeze his vote to ensure sufficient support for Mr Gould.

There was still confusion last night over how MPs would know if the candidate they had nominated had secured enough MPs.

Both Mr Livingstone and John Prescott, who is bidding for the deputy leadership, were furious that Ms Gould had appeared to change the rules on Friday, without consulting any of the candidates apart from Mr Gould.

It is understood that the party's general secretary, Larry Whitty, was contacted by Ms Gould but they did not discuss the exact wording of her letter which said that MPs could submit a duplicate nomination allowing them to state a second preference for both the leadership and the deputy leadership.

After hurried telephone calls between Mr Whitty, Neil Kinnock's office, Ms Gould, David Hill, communications director, and John Evans, the party chairman, the second version was put out.

Party officers are expected to confirm this line before the parliamentary Labour party meets tomorrow and then present it to the PLP as a fait accompli.

Speaking on the *Walden* programme, Mr Gould said he was confident that he would get the 55 nominations for both leader and deputy. There was a lot of telephoning and "in some circumstances arm-twisting going on".

Diary, page 10



Livingstone: "Evidence has now emerged"



Degree of dissent: the women students of Somerville college, Oxford, met last night to plan the latest stage in their campaign to prevent the ending of single-sex education, which has continued there for 113 years. Somerville's governing body announced in February that it would permit applications from men next year. The decision has been vigorously opposed by students — including, left to right, Helen Rogers, Suzy Parker, Katie Baxendale and Alice Walton — and distinguished graduates of the college such as Margaret Thatcher and Shirley Williams. The main subject on the agenda last night was whether to take proposed legal action to overturn the decision to admit men.

Scientists challenge Aids link to HIV

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A GROUP of doctors and scientists dissatisfied with existing theories on the causes of Aids is to hold an "alternative" Aids symposium in Holland next month.

Professor Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, the discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which is generally believed to cause Aids, is among those expected to attend, with others whose opposition to the HIV theory of Aids is already known. Professor Montagnier's presence is likely to give a higher profile to a campaign over Aids which has been largely ignored or dismissed by mainstream medical opinion.

Some critics, such as Professor Peter Duesberg of the University of California at Berkeley, say that HIV is not the main cause of Aids. They blame the disease's symptoms on other factors, such as drug-taking, which damage the immune system. Professor Duesberg's views have been dismissed by most researchers, but are now being championed by a new international body, the Group for the Scientific Reappraisal of the HIV/Aids Hypothesis. The editor of the group's newsletter, Dr Harvey Bialy,

says the virus theory of Aids "has produced nothing".

Outside a small and vocal minority, however, few specialists doubt that there is a strong connection between HIV and Aids. Where there is room for argument is over the degree to which HIV can be identified as the single cause of the disease.

The evidence shows clearly that Aids can be transmitted by HIV alone. The issue raised by Professor Montagnier is whether every case is caused in this way, and whether other factors may in some cases be equally or more important. He points out that

people infected with the virus normally do not develop the disease for several years, and suggests that some may never do so. Other critics go further, claiming that Aids is a consequence of damage to the immune system by drug taking, malnutrition, or other infections, and that many of the supposed symptoms of the disease are due to the toxic effects of the drugs used to treat it. This extreme position is dismissed by most Aids experts.

They point out that many of those who have died from Aids have no link with drug taking. The only common

factor, for example, between haemophiliacs who have suffered the disease is the use of blood products contaminated with HIV. If suppression of the immune system were the cause of Aids, the disease would kill many elderly people, as flu does. The fact that it does not indicates a more specific cause, to which young and not old are exposed. So far, HIV is the only serious candidate.

This does not mean that HIV is the only cause of immune system failure. There will always be some people whose immune systems fail and who die from

Aids-like symptoms without the involvement of HIV. The point is that such cases do not constitute an epidemic, while Aids does.

The serious scientific argument about HIV is how precisely it functions. The fact that the progression from HIV to Aids is unpredictable suggests, to Professor Montagnier, that it happens only when other "co-factors" are present. He believes that HIV and the co-factors conspire to undermine the immune system by reprogramming the immune cells. Then, when they are later challenged by other infections, the immune cells fail to fight them off, but instead self-destruct, leaving the patient defenceless.

If proved correct, Professor Montagnier's theories will have implications for Aids treatment. The use of a vaccine as a therapeutic measure may, he thinks, stimulate the very process it was meant to control. He suggests that it may be better to protect HIV-infected people with antibiotics to control the co-factors, which are assumed to be micro-organisms of some sort. Dietary advice and vitamin supplements could also be valuable.

Broadcasters shun drug theory

BROADCASTERS, with the notable exception of Channel 4, have shied away from reporting Professor Peter Duesberg's controversial views about the cause of Aids (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Channel 4's *Dispatches*, which has broadcast two documentaries articulating the views of Prof Duesberg, has been criticised by the Terrence Higgins Trust and other Aids organisations, as well as Wellcome, the drug com-

pany that manufactures AZT. A year ago, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission upheld a complaint against the *Dispatches* programme, *The Aids Catch*, a follow-up to *Aids: The Unheard Voices*.

The Terrence Higgins Trust, Frontliners and Positively Women complained that the programme had put the majority view that HIV was the direct cause of Aids, and that *The Aids Catch* both added to, and balanced, the debate.

The Commission ruled that the programme "did not give the ordinary viewer the basis for forming a judgement about the controversial arguments put forward".

But Channel 4 and the programme's producer, Joan Shenton, argued that the majority of Aids programmes had put the majority view that HIV was the direct cause of Aids, and that *The Aids Catch* both added to, and balanced, the debate.

Deluge fails to dampen referendum rally

By KERRY GILL

"GOD must be a Tory," said a steward last night at the second demonstration held by Scotland United, the movement formed after the general election to fight for a referendum on Scotland's future constitution.

He might have been right. As the crowds gathered in George Square, Glasgow, the skies blackened, lightning flashed, thunder clapped and the 2,500 demonstrators were caught in a deluge. George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow, Hillhead,

one of the original organisers of Scotland United, said the movement's strategy was to build grass-roots support before inviting the party leaders to the referendum. The rally was held up to St Andrew's Day, the deadline Scotland United has given the government to hold a multi-option referendum.

The movement is supposed to be cross party but the organisers tend to be from the Labour party while the majority of supporters appear to be from the nation-

alists. Many in the crowd were waving SNP banners.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, sent a message of support in which he called on the people of Scotland to support a popular referendum. Fiona Hyslop, of the SNP, told the gathering that the demonstrators had gathered for social and economic freedom from Westminster.

Morna Craig, of the Liberal Democrats, said: "We are here to demonstrate the strength of our intentions

and width of our support." Mr Galloway will today call on his party to back a series of by-elections throughout Scotland held every month until the Tories allow a referendum. His plan is that every sitting MP in favour of home rule should stand down and then stand as a home rule candidate.

However, his idea will need the support not only of fellow Labour MPs but of the nationalists and the Liberal Democrats. It would doubtless be ignored by the Tories.

Ramblers 'have to trespass'

By RONALD FAUX

TRESPASS remains a weapon for ramblers most expect to use in the campaign for the right to roam across closed countryside. Chris Hall, president of the Ramblers' Association, said yesterday when the renowned mass trespass on Kinder Scout, Derbyshire, sixty years ago was celebrated on the spot where it began.

Several of the original trespassers were among the crowd of 600 which met in the quarry near Hayfield at the foot of Kinder Scout where the march to the moors, which ended in clashes with gamekeepers and water bailiffs, set out. Five ramblers were jailed for between two and six months.

Mr Hall gave a warning that landowners had not changed their spots in the past 60 years. He said there was still no sign of the law being changed and that many areas of countryside were still out of bounds. He accused the government of reneging on its promise to legislate for access on foot to the 1.3 million acres of common land in England.

Nurses want enquiry into care of elderly

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL enquiry into the needs of elderly people in residential homes must be established to avoid a "scandal", the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday at its annual congress in Blackpool.

Many old people are being neglected and are suffering pain and distress because they are placed in homes that cannot meet their need for nursing care, according to a new survey, the college says. For the survey, *A Scandal Waiting To Happen*, the college consulted 233 nurses in residential and nursing homes and found that half thought their residents were placed in the wrong kind of home.

Old people in ordinary homes who suffered from bed sores or incontinence often received inappropriate help because nurses were not available, the survey found. There were "numerous examples" of people denied skilled nursing care when they were dying, it said.

Launching the survey yesterday, Christine Hancock, general secretary of the col-

lege, said that old people were being wrongly placed or their need for greater care was going unmet as they became more infirm. "We need an in-depth look, lasting maybe three months, to see what is happening."

The survey, to be presented to Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary, when she addresses the congress today, shows also that 40 per cent of nurses working in nursing homes said that many residents did not need the high level of care provided. Some said fit and active residents were being accepted to lighten the workload or to save the bother of moving them when they became more dependent.

Ms Hancock refused to say whether she favoured a slowdown in the pace of health service reforms. "We would like the changes to be properly evaluated," she said.

The congress, attended by representatives of Britain's 450,000 nurses, will consider calls for a campaign for the government to establish a formula to guarantee an adequate level of NHS funding.

Sir Leon to unveil car price survey

Sir Leon Brittan, EC competition commissioner, will this week make public the findings of his long-awaited report into car prices across the European Community.

As expected, the Brussels report found big differences in car prices across the EC, far higher than those allowed under EC law, with British and Spanish consumers especially suffering at the hands of an industry that has a "block exemption" from normal EC competition rules.

During the first quarter of 1991, five leading European car groups had price differentials of more than 40 per cent on some of their models across the EC market. On some Ford models it was as high as 84 per cent. For Japanese cars, restricted by some EC countries almost to the point of exclusion, price differentials of as much as 103 per cent were recorded.

Of 21 models compared, 12 were most expensive in Spain, two in France, one in Germany and six in Britain: the Fiat Uno 70SX, Citroen AX TRE 1.1, Astra LS1.4, Volkswagen Golf 1.6, BMW 316i 1.6 and the Peugeot 405 GRI.9.

The report comes before the 17-member commission for approval on Wednesday. Sir Leon will recommend that car makers make clear to their dealers that unless they keep price differentials down to 12 per cent over sustained periods, with a maximum divergence to 18 per cent at any given moment, the block exemption for the industry will not be renewed when it comes up for review in 1995.

Workers sue over late pay

A council that lost more than £6 million in the BCCI crash is facing High Court action for trying to delay its workers' pay days. Bury council, in Greater Manchester, wants to switch salary payments from the middle of the month to the end, saving the council £365,000.

Workers say the change will mean them paying twice for essential repayments from one pay packet. Sue Duggan, a social worker, has issued a writ against the council and will be seeking an injunction against the pay delay in the High Court on Wednesday.

M15 opposed

Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan Police commissioner, is expected to meet Kenneth Clarke, the new home secretary, this week to press the police case for the Yard's special branch to retain control of all terrorist intelligence material in mainland Britain and to reject Home Office proposals to put M15 in charge. Sir Peter and other chief constables say M15 has no public accountability and no experience in Britain.

Footpath fight

The Countryside Commission launched its scheme to encourage local people to look after England's 120,000 miles of public rights of way yesterday at the National Association of Local Councils conference in Southampton, Merseyside. The commission wants to ensure that the entire network of public paths is legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised by 2000.

Policeman hurt

A policeman was seriously injured early yesterday morning when his panda car crashed into a street sign in Woking, Surrey. Constable Richard Styles, based at Woking, was answering a 999 call after youths had been reported causing criminal damage. He was said last night to be in a very critical condition with head injuries in the Atkinson Morley hospital, Wimbledon.

Safe rigs urged

North Sea oil companies should be obliged by law to consult their workforce about safety on every offshore installation, according to a Trades Union Congress paper published today. It also emphasises the need for uniform standards and government funds to meet safety needs. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "Workers' expertise is too valuable to be overlooked."

Murder charge

A hotel kitchen porter was due to appear before magistrates today charged with murdering a 53-year-old man at a luxury Berkshire hotel on Saturday. John Cawley, 37, was alleged to have kicked the man to death during a fight in staff quarters. The victim had not yet been identified.

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THOUSANDS of elderly people who are aged with the loss of homes because of an investment scandal are planning to sue building societies for their role in the disaster.

Solicitors representing thousands of home income plan members have taken counsel and are preparing litigation to seek compensation from societies, including Cheltenham & Gloucester, Britain's sixth largest, and the West Bromwich, which provided loans for plans.

Andrew Langham, C&G's £300,000-a-year executive, and fellow directors, face a demand from pensioners at the society's annual meeting on Tuesday. They claim C&G actively recruited customers to take out a firm of financial advisers which subsequently bankrupted, and they say neither organisation adequately explained the investments involved.

The plans encourage people to use part of the equity of their homes to secure loans, which was then used in bonds to provide income.

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AN ADVERTISER asking "Why not use your home to give you an income?" has ensnared Gerald and Janet Beaumont of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, in a home income plan. It seemed an idea at the time for a

Direct style a

FOUR of the main financial advisers who provided home income plans have folded, leaving investors to seek redress either through the courts or a compensation scheme (Tony Dawe).

The most active in the Fisher Prew-Smith, of Liverpool, Merseyside, was up last September. V investors worry about homes, its directors are in style. Paul Prew-Smith, 47, is a £700,000 Spanish villa in Southport.

Most of the loans were made by the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society, which was run by Carol Wilkins.



Fisher: comfortable house in Southport

Tussauds to fight park plan

By CRAIG SEXTON

THE Tussauds Group owns Warwick Castle and has decided to urge the government secretary to reject a £40 million housing development on land overlooked by the castle.

Tussauds told a meeting last October that it had accepted in principle the proposed leisure park, but was not believing it could ensure the historic 690-acre park was restored.

The enquiry inspector is believed to be at the desk of Michael Howard, the new environment secretary, for a decision. The Tussauds Group has now written him to say that as it has to secure a binding agreement with David Ward, the proposed park, the scheme is being refused planning permission.

The historic park was part-designed by Capability Brown, was farmed by Newling Ward bought three years ago for £5 million.

John Morley, of the Tussauds and Mr. Ward were not working in their views.

Investment flop victims determined to sue

THOUSANDS of mostly elderly people who are threatened with the loss of their homes because of an investment scandal are planning to sue building societies over their role in the disaster.

Solicitors representing victims of home income plans have taken counsel's advice and are preparing legal action to seek compensation from societies, including the Cheltenham & Gloucester, Britain's sixth largest, and the West Bromwich, which provided loans for 2,000 plans.

Andrew Longhurst, the C&G's £300,000-a-year chief executive, and fellow directors, face a demonstration from pensioners at the society's annual meeting on Wednesday. They claim that the C&G actively recommended customers to take out plans with a firm of financial advisers which subsequently went bankrupt, and they say that neither organisation adequately explained the risks of the investments collapsing.

The plans encouraged people to use part of the equity of their homes to obtain loans, which was then invested in bonds to provide an

income and enough funds to pay off the loan. But in a difficult market, the bonds dropped in value and failed to produce adequate income, while interest rates rose leaving investors with debts that could only be met by selling their homes.

Two investors, Cyril Whitta of Corby, Northants, and Les Steer of Paignton, Devon, were said by their families to have been driven to suicide by despair over the debts. Support groups have been formed throughout Britain to help the victims who, according to Age Concern, could total 10,000.

Many investors' debts have mounted without them taking a penny in income. Gerald Beaumont, 63, and his wife, Margaret, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, took out a £55,000 loan three years ago to boost his future pension. He now owes £73,000 and has seen the value of his investment cut by a third.

Vera Hawkins and her husband Basil, both in their seventies, of Hayes, Kent, obtained a £50,000 mortgage from C&G in 1987 to buy investments which could be left

looking for new markets. They must be held liable."

Even Godfrey Jillings, chief executive of Fimbria, which regulates financial advisers and brokers and is trying to sort out the mess, said: "The building societies should have satisfied themselves that the plans were viable. There was undoubtedly some irresponsible lending. Now everyone is running for cover and no one wants to take responsibility."

Obtaining compensation for the victims is clouded by the number of different bodies involved in home income plans: financial advisers who sold them; building societies which provided the loans; solicitors who did the conveyancing; insurance companies which financed the bonds; and regulatory authorities such as Fimbria which have been accused of acting too slowly to stop them.

Fimbria does run a consumer arbitration scheme which can rule on investors' claims against financial advisers. Since the main firms which sold the plans have gone into liquidation, the victims must now turn to the Investors' Compensation Scheme, which can pay out a maximum of £48,000 on each claim but has its disadvantages.

The scheme only covers losses on investments taken out after August 1988 and once the financial adviser has defaulted. A spokeswoman also pointed out that because of the role of some building societies and solicitors in pushing specific plans, the scheme might not pay out the full amount of a claim but would hold some back while it sought funds from others who could share the blame.

"It is with these complications in mind that we believe the best way to seek redress for the victims is through the courts," Mr Barnett said.

The building societies insist that legal action will delay their own attempts to resolve the crisis without repossessing any homes. The West Bromwich said that a team of counsellors is helping borrowers with financial worries and the C & G is expected to pre-empt Wednesday's pensioner protest and the resultant media coverage by announcing "an arrangement" to help some of its borrowers.

Up to 10,000 elderly people, some facing the loss of their homes, are demanding compensation from building societies after losing fortunes in home income schemes. Tony Dawe reports



Longhurst: target for pensioners' protests

Enticing advertisement became financial snare

By TONY DAWE

AN ADVERTISEMENT asking "Why not use your home to give you an income?" ensnared Gerald and Margaret Beaumont of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, in a home-income plan.

"It seemed an excellent idea at the time for we were

planning for our retirement and wanted to boost my meagre pension," Mr Beaumont, who is now 63, said. They were visited by a salesman from Fisher Prew-Smith, financial advisers of Southport, Merseyside, who arranged three years ago for

them to obtain a £55,000 loan from the National Counties building society of Epsom, Surrey.

The couple spent £25,000 on home improvements and paying off debts and, on Fisher Prew-Smith's advice, invested £20,000 in a bond and £10,000 in a high interest account to help pay off the loan.

"We were told our investment was with a blue-chip company and that if we didn't take any income from the bond until my retirement in 1994 then it would provide £380 a month," Mr Beaumont said.

However, the bond dropped in value and when Mr Beaumont inquired about taking some income from it after suffering a heart attack he was told that was impossible. The bond is now worth just £12,000 while the interest on his loan has increased so rapidly that he owes £73,000.

"I don't even have the money to pay off the loan let alone any to boost my pension," he said. "It is absolutely wrong that we should be left in this position. We went to a financial adviser for guidance and no one from the building society came to see us to go over our financial situation. In the circumstances, we believe that all our losses should be written off."

Fisher Prew-Smith is now in liquidation. John Milton, general manager of National Counties, said: "We have not at any stage marketed these products and relied on property registered financial intermediaries to present cases for loans to us. We are, however, trying to assist borrowers who are in difficulties and encouraging them to take action through compensation schemes to recover their position."

Directors living in style as clients fret

FOUR of the main firms of financial advisers which provided home income plans have folded, leaving investors to seek redress either through the courts or a compensation scheme (Tony Dawe writes).

The most active in the field, Fisher Prew-Smith, of Southport, Merseyside, was wound up last September. While its investors worry about their homes, its directors are living in style. Paul Prew-Smith in a £700,000 Spanish villa and Peter Fisher in a comfortable house in Southport.

Most of the loans made by the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society were for plans arranged by Aylesbury Associates of Bromley, Kent, run by Carol Wilkins and



Fisher: comfortable house in Southport



Thompson: one of her clients killed himself



Heavy debts: the Beaumonts' retirement plan went disastrously wrong

Tussauds to fight park plan

By CRAIG SETON

THE Tussauds Group, which owns Warwick Castle, has decided to urge the environment secretary to reject plans for a £40 million hotel and golf development on parkland overlooked by the historic building.

Tussauds told a public enquiry last October that it accepted in principle the proposed leisure project, believing it could enable the historic 690-acre landscape to be restored.

The enquiry inspector's report is believed to be on the desk of Michael Howard, the new environment secretary, for a decision. The Tussauds Group has now written to him to say that as it has failed to secure a binding agreement with David Newling Ward, the proposed developer, to safeguard the future of the land, the scheme should be refused planning consent.

The historic parkland, part-designed by Capability Brown, was farmed until Mr Newling Ward bought it over three years ago for an estimated £5 million.

John Morley, of Corstorphine and Wright, said on behalf of the developer that Tussauds and Mr Newling Ward were not worlds apart in their views.

Turbine will harness power of neglected waterways

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of artists and scientists hopes to transform the fortunes of the neglected river Wandle, a tributary of the Thames and once one of the most economically important waterways in the world, by generating electricity from one of its weirs.

The scheme, proposed by Platform, an environmental group, is part of a wider initiative to raise awareness of Britain's forgotten waterways through exhibitions, plays and water power schemes.

Initially four rivers, the Fleet, Effra, Wandle and Walbrook, are being used in the Still Waters campaign. Three of them are almost invisible because vast sections run under streets and buildings.

James Marriott, a co-ordinator of the scheme, said the Lower Wandle was reputedly the hardest worked river in the world, used to grind corn, tan leather, roll copper, pound iron and provide power to the City of London.

The weir power plant is planned near the river's mouth in Wandsworth. Stephen Fisher, an expert on micro-hydroelectric schemes at Intermediate Technology, a charity based in Rugby, Leicestershire, has been carrying out evaluation of the site.

The Wandle project is intended mainly to raise environmental awareness but the prospect of commercial weir power schemes connected to the national grid popping up across the country on canals and rivers could soon be a reality.

Engineers at IT Power of Eversley, Hampshire, are close to developing a new turbine that could make small weir-power stations easy to install, practical and cost-effective.

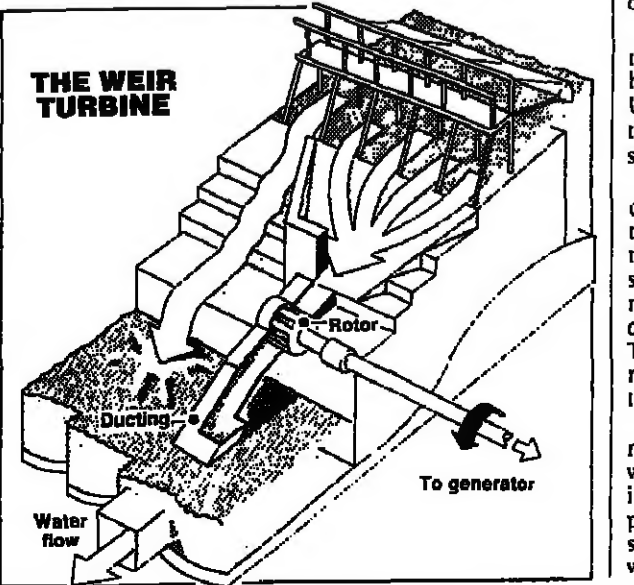
Millions of litres of water cascade over several hundred weirs across the country, frittering away an energy resource estimated to equal 180MW of electricity. The low-head cross-flow turbine project has received £40,000 under the trade and industry department's Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Development scheme.

The turbine is said to be capable of generating 100kW from small heads of water by using two half-inch thick steel discs with up to six hydrofoils in between. The device's inventor, Peter Fraenkel of IT Power, said: "It is like a hamster's running wheel but with special streamlined bars."

Dr Carey said: "It belongs to the Anglican way to put a high premium on the mind. Unless the mind is satisfied, the heart's emotions will not sustain us for long."

He said the biblical story of doubting Thomas offered intellectual freedom and a spiritual challenge. "The impression is sometimes given that mature Christians need never doubt or question their faith. That attitude closes doors to new Christians and prevents the growth of our own faith."

"We need the questioning mind of Thomas when faced with issues which stump us intellectually such as human pain and suffering, when evil seems to triumph over good, when prayer is not answered,



Carey calls on church to accept doubters

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday called on Anglican churches to resist division and fragmentation over disagreements of faith.

The church must be broad enough not to exclude the sceptics and doubters, Dr George Carey said in an address at St James's Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina, during a visit to the US.

He was speaking a week after some Church of England clergy said that the bodily resurrection of Christ might not have occurred and expressed doubts in the divinity of Christ.

Dr Carey said: "It belongs to the Anglican way to put a high premium on the mind. Unless the mind is satisfied, the heart's emotions will not sustain us for long."

He said the biblical story of doubting Thomas offered intellectual freedom and a spiritual challenge. "The impression is sometimes given that mature Christians need never doubt or question their faith. That attitude closes doors to new Christians and prevents the growth of our own faith."

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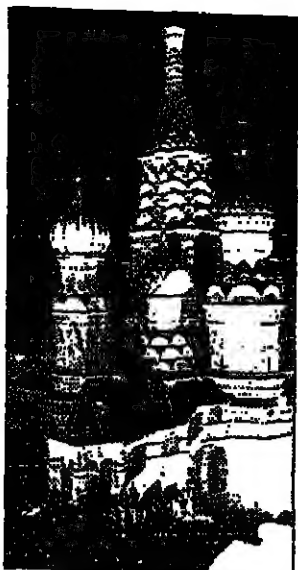
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Easter bells call out the faithful from Moscow to Kiev



Resurrection: the church of St Basil

ROARS of delight erupted throughout the night from the magnificent citadel of Sergiyev Posad as thousands of pilgrims gathered here, and in churches across the Orthodox world, to celebrate the first Easter since the fall of Russian communism.

Something of the spirit of medieval Canterbury was in the air as the devout lit candles, the greedy sold painted wooden eggs, and the curious looked on in wonder, keen to participate but confused by the arcane language and rituals. But the grins of childlike delight on the faces of scores of gaunt seminarians, whose fasting was presumably very strict indeed, the clouds of incense, and the endless cries of "Christos voskre" (Christ has risen) told their own story.

The churches have been packed for the first Easter since the fall of communism, write Bruce Clark in Sergiyev Posad and Robert Seely in Kiev

For hours before the service, plump matrons, many of whom had travelled long distances, perched precariously on tiny folding chairs as they waited with infinite patience, jealously guarding their places near the front of the gilded iconostasis. The only thing that cooled the atmosphere of religious ardour was unseasonably cold weather. Only the most devout can have observed the tradition of watching the sun rise on Easter Sunday morning to see whether it dances in the sky.

Zagorsk — to use the Communist name by which most people still know this town east of Moscow — has a particular resonance for Russians during their country's current upheavals, because of its association with Saint Sergius of Radonezh. It was this 14th-century medieval ascetic who is credited with inspiring Russia's revival from a low point in its fortunes and the defeat of the nation's Mongol overlords.

Moscow, warmed to the theme of religion as a refuge in troubled times in his Easter message to the faithful. "At this difficult time, full of privation and trial for many of us, let this beautiful feast... give us strength to retain Christian patience and courage, whatever the circumstances," he said.

The Patriarch received members of the Russian leadership for a separate blessing. The dignitaries, who included Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president, and Valeri Zorkin, he chairman of the constitutional court, were shown crossing themselves, kissing the Patriarch's ring and being given a small porcelain Easter egg in a red box.

also in evidence in Sergiyev Posad as worshippers entering the castellated monastery grounds were offered copies of an anti-Semitic broadsheet.

The publication denounced the holding of a Jewish service inside the Kremlin last December and accused the authorities of failing to investigate the "Talmudic conspiracy" that it blamed for the murder of three priests over the past two years.

In Moscow, the bells of St Basil's cathedral rang out over Red Square at midnight where several thousand Russians, including many young families, had gathered, with candles to celebrate Easter. As the bells pealed, priests and congregation emerged from the floodlit church for the traditional procession around the outside.

For those who stayed at home, television provided live transmission of the four-hour Easter service from the patriarchal church in central Moscow interspersed for the first time with live coverage of orthodox Easter services from the capitals of Bulgaria and Romania.

In Kiev old ladies gently jostled each other for space as the packed trolley buses headed for midnight orthodox service at the Pecherskaya Lavra monastery. The Pecherskaya complex, which began life in 1051 as a series of underground tombs and churches, has slowly returned to life as one of the spiritual centres of eastern Orthodoxy. However, it is no longer the elderly who

form the bulk of believers. The young, more often than not dressed for a free rock festival, are returning to the Church out of faith, curiosity or a rebirth of Ukrainian pride.

● Paris: The body of Grand Duke Vladimir Romanov, the heir of the last Russian tsar, lay in a Russian Orthodox church near Paris yesterday before being taken to St Petersburg for burial later this week. The Grand Duke, who died in Miami on Tuesday, will probably be buried in a small chapel next to the Peter and Paul Fortress where the remains of Russian Tsars lie. There was no question of him being buried in the fortress itself, which is reserved for emperors. (Reuters)

IMF prepares to admit Russia to the capitalist club

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN WASHINGTON AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA and fourteen former Soviet republics, including the Baltic states, are expected to be formally accepted into the capitalist fold today when the 156 member countries of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank vote to accept them as new members.

But while membership will open the door to a multi-billion-dollar aid package from the leading Western economies, backed by the international financial institutions that foster the free-market system, the confidence expressed yesterday by Yegor Gaidar, the Russian deputy prime minister, in the pace of Russian reform, could prove misplaced.

On arrival in Washington for the IMF and World Bank spring session, he made clear that he considered that the Russian government was doing enough in the way of reform to qualify for Western funds. Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven leading industrial countries had, however, deliberated the question of possible Russian relaxation of late on the reform front.

Mr Gaidar, architect of the current reform programme being implemented by President Yeltsin, has sought to counter Western accusations that easier credit policy now being adopted in Russia represents backsliding on its commitment to create the conditions for a free market in the former command economy. He argues that, given hyperinflation in Russia, the modest relaxation of credit limits still leaves policy very tight indeed.

He carried with him to Washington the hopes of Russia's radical economic reformers and the cares of a country which is, by its own admission, on its uppers. Trapped by an inherited external debt of \$34 billion, a projected internal deficit for the second quarter of 158 billion roubles (£1 billion) and industrial production falling by an estimated 20 per cent annually, Russia needs the breathing space that outside help could give.

The G-7 governments still have strong reservations,

however, about the Russians' ability to deliver on their promises, and fear that political uncertainty remains as long as the Russian government fails to enjoy the full support of the Russian electorate.

In its dealings with international financial organisations, the Russian government has to tread warily at home. Whatever the state of the domestic budget, receiving financial help from abroad is not something that pleases many Russians, especially if it comes with strings attached. Many people think that, even without its dealings with the G7 and the IMF, the government is too orientated towards the West. The whole philosophy of market reforms, announced last October by President Yeltsin and begun in January by Mr Gaidar, is regarded as, at best, borrowing the capitalist model and, at worst, having it foisted upon them.

Travelling to Washington to talk to the G7 and the IMF, petitioning for IMF membership, requesting and then accepting loans on the West's terms will bring Mr Gaidar little credit at home.

All through the recent drawn-out Congress of People's Deputies, the charge that the policy of the Gaidar government was being made in Washington was one of the most damaging that could be brought by the opposition.

Successive congress chairmen did their best to ensure that this theme was never developed, but it was always in the background. Mr Gaidar, for his part, told the congress that the government would pursue its present policy regardless: any promise of IMF help would be a welcome bonus.

The Russian government and its advisers are aware of how much leeway they will be given by the IMF and are tailoring their policies accordingly. When the opposition forces adjustments, as it did at the congress, then these will be made within the permitted limits, or in full cognisance of the penalties. To ensure that no more is demanded, or forced, how-

ever, the government is likely to exaggerate the size of the "adjustments" for the domestic audience and minimise them for the West. President Bush's announcement of the West's \$24 billion (£13.5 billion) package three weeks ago, on the eve of the congress, may well have strengthened the Russian government's hand; not with the congress, however, but with Mr Yeltsin. Only he knew what would be lost if his government fell, and he worked to ensure that it did not.

Despite successes in freeing prices and bringing a measure of control to its budget deficit, the fear in the West remains that Moscow is still dragging its feet over some essential changes, such as the creation of a private property market and extensive privatisation.

In addition to concerns about Russia, for which the Bush administration made its proposal of a package of balance-of-payments aid and measures to stabilise the ruble, there is growing concern, particularly in Germany, that the rest of the former Soviet empire is being neglected.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister and current chairman of G7, made clear that he wants the Russians to understand that what the West is offering is "help towards self-help" leaving the prime burden on the Russians themselves. The Germans, who feel they have already paid more than their share towards the opening up of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, also have serious objections to special borrowing arrangements used between the leading Western economies being made available to Russia, as foreseen in the ruble stabilisation programme.

The intricate detail of the agreements for providing funds from the IMF, the World Bank and other international institutions could take months to resolve. The traditional disbursement of funds in tranches also slows their arrival for the recipient, which might fuel disappointment among the people of the former Soviet Union.

Bucharest hails its former monarch

A private visit evoked joy and hope for Romanians, Sean Hillen writes

SHOWERS of red and white tulips bedecked the cavalcade as exiled King Michael of Romania drove triumphantly through the Romanian capital. More than 100,000 well-wishers lined the route shouting "King in, Miescu!"

On a bright Orthodox Easter Sunday, he was resurrected from relative obscurity in Switzerland and hailed as the new leader of the country. The former king, 70, who was forced to abdicate by the communists in 1947, returned with his wife Anne, his second daughter Elena and his grandson Nicolas.

On their arrival at Otopeni airport, they were greeted by thousands of people and a large contingent of police and soldiers. The tight security, however, did not prevent a two-mile long snake of cars from following his Mercedes as it wound its way along Avenue Kiseleff to the Arch of Triumph where crowds blocked the main roads. Pushing and shoving each other for a look at the former monarch, they offered bread and salt, the traditional Romanian welcome. Many people wept openly while others shouted "King Michael, don't leave. This is your country" and also, "Let him stay in the country".

As the cavalcade passed University Square, the most dramatic symbol of the 1989 revolution, people leaped over the balconies of their tower blocks. They waved the national flag with the symbol of the monarchy in the middle. The emblem reads "Nothing without God". Thousands of copies of the newspaper *Future Romania* were handed out in the street. The newspaper devoted its entire issue to the former king's visit.

Liana Ghent and Mihaela Sirbu, two Transylvanian women, greeted the king with enthusiasm. "He is the best thing for the country at this time. We need a new leader who is clean of all sin. Some of the present leaders are not fit to lead Romania out of its present social and economic difficulties".

Nicu Popescu, a pensioner, smiled upon seeing the cavalcade and said: "No-body trusts the bolsheviks who are in power across our own borders. We have been living in misery for 45 years and we don't want to live in



Home again: King Michael, with his wife Anne, marking his return to Romania by lighting candles celebrating the Orthodox Easter, at Putna

misery for much longer. I want King Michael back because he is trusted by the West and can lead us forward." Mr Popescu, who considers meat a luxury because he can only afford bread and vegetables, said that a monarchy in Romania would be "good for young people".

The former king arrived in Romania on Saturday at the invitation of Archbishop Pinen of Suceava. On

Saturday afternoon he visited Putna monastery and the shrine of St Stephen. As his visit was designated as a private one, he was not greeted by any high government official. Teodor Stolojan, the prime minister, had said that he would not be in Bucharest on the Easter weekend but added that the former monarch was a private citizen and as such was free to visit Romania.

Yugoslav army is marooned

Samajevic: President Izetbegovic of Bosnia was starting talks yesterday with commanders of the Yugoslav army on the future of Europe's newest state and of the army itself (Tim Judah writes).

Serb irregulars backed by the army have secured large areas of the republic, but the army is marooned in Bosnia from today, when Serbia and Montenegro are to declare the founding of a new Yugoslav state. It will consist of only these two out of the old six Yugoslav republics and its frontiers will be their present borders. The Yugoslav army in Bosnia will therefore be left, in a foreign country, in a foreign country.

Under the constitution of the new state other "units" may choose to join it. This crucial clause means that Serbia can have no territorial pretensions in Bosnia or Croatia. At the same time it leaves the door open for the self-proclaimed Serbian republics in Bosnia and Croatia to join "New Yugoslavia" if and when the time is right.

Finance chief to quit politics

Johannesburg: The announcement by Barend du Plessis, the South African finance minister, that he will resign at the end of the month surprised the white political community yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr du Plessis, 52, who went into hospital two weeks ago, said he was retiring because of exhaustion, not ill health. Two years ago he came within eight votes of becoming the National Party's leader. He will also quit as an MP and as party leader in the Transvaal.

Demirel quest

Istanbul: Suleyman Demirel, Turkey's prime minister, is embarking on a week-long tour of Central Asia's five newly independent Muslim republics at the end of the month to further Turkish interests and find new markets.

Garrison falls

Nairobi: Sudanese troops supported by Iranian revolutionary guards have recaptured the White Nile garrison town of Mongalla in the offensive against rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Mongalla is the eighth town to fall in six weeks.

President trails

Paris: President Mitterand is supported by 26 per cent of the electorate, according to an opinion poll in *Le Journal du Dimanche*, against 30 per cent for Pierre Berégovoy, the prime minister, which is the largest gap for more than three decades.

Tanker sinks

Mapeuto: The Greek oil tanker Kalina P exploded and sank a week after running aground off the coast of Mozambique. There were no casualties but the extent of the damage from the tanker's 430,000 barrels of fuel oil is not yet clear. (AP)

Airman sought

Lima: Rescuers are still searching for an American airman lost over the Pacific when a Peruvian warplane fired on a US drug-surveillance plane. The incident may further strain relations between Washington and Peru's government. (AP)

Relics offered

Peking: Relics from China's Ming and Qing dynasties will be sold by the Peking auction market in October, marking the first time the country has allowed the sale of such cultural treasures, the official *China Daily* newspaper reported. (Reuters)

Cossiga begged to seek second term

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SUPPORTERS of President Cossiga yesterday begged him to run for a second term after he plunged Italy into a constitutional upset by tearfully announcing his resignation at a time when the country has only a caretaker government.

Gianfranco Fini, the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement leader, said: "The Italian people want the re-election of Cossiga for the presidency of the republic. The people want a man who serves the country at the Quirinal palace."

If he chose to run again, Signor Cossiga, 63, would also have the support of the small Liberal party, the regional League of the North, as well as sections of the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties. But such backing probably would be insufficient, and it is thought more likely that a candidate from one of the big parties will succeed him.

Five million Italians watched Signor Cossiga announce his resignation on television on Saturday at the end of a melodramatic 50-minute speech in which he

explained that he was "a man alone" with insufficient powers to ensure the creation of a stable government.

His resignation was the first by a post-second world war Italian head of state while only a caretaker government was in power. On Friday, Giulio Andreotti resigned as prime minister to clear the way for consultations to find a new government after the election of April 5 and 6. He remains in office as a caretaker leader.

The favourites to replace Signor Cossiga include Giovanni Spadolini, Speaker of the senate, who now becomes acting head of state, Signor Andreotti, Arnaldo Forlani, the Christian Democrat party secretary, and Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader.

Signor Cossiga said he had decided to resign more than two months before the end of his seven-year mandate to allow a new president with full powers to be elected to preside over the quest for a new government. Italian presidents have restricted powers during their last six months, and cannot dissolve parliament to call a new election.

German strikes gain support

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY today faces the most widespread and disruptive series of strikes in its postwar history, after unions representing nearly three million public service workers in the west received massive backing from their members for industrial action in support of a pay claim that the government insists is "economically crazy".

The results of a ballot declared on Saturday showed that an average 89.9 per cent of members in all sectors are prepared to strike for a 9.5 per cent claim. At the same time Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and Theo Waigel, his finance minister, insist that there is only enough money available for a 4.8 per cent increase.

Herr Waigel says the battle against inflation means there has to be a freeze on public spending until the middle of the decade while the independent Bundesbank is threatening to push up interest rates again if the unions win anything like their claim.

Faced with the possibility of a long stoppage, the government is already considering plans to use the Bundeswehr to empty dustbins and call on civil servants — who are con-



No change: a General Anzeiger cartoon character in a strike-hit post office says: "I see no difference"

stitutionally not allowed to strike — to do essential administrative jobs.

The last strike in the public service sector 18 years ago was far more limited than the one that is now being prepared and the public at large has no real experience of coping with what is still called "the English disease" of widespread industrial action. Trains, trams, post and refuse collection services will be most seriously affected. However, workers from groups as different as gravediggers, tax collectors, harbour workers,

airport ground staff and motorway maintenance men are also involved.

With such widespread action Herr Kohl can take no comfort from remembering what happened 18 years ago, when only 79 per cent voted to strike. The government was forced to cave in after only three days, granting the union pay claim almost in full.

The ballot result proves that union militancy has never been higher.

Germany firm, page 15

Austria's presidential race still undecided

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN VIENNA

AUSTRIA began to emerge from six years in the diplomatic wilderness yesterday as it voted for a new president to replace Kurt Waldheim in the Hofburg palace.

With nearly half the ballots counted, Rudolf Streicher, the Social Democrat and former minister of transport and nationalised industries, had secured 41.5 per cent of the vote. Thomas Klestil, the career diplomat representing the conservative People's Party had 35.5 per cent. The two will go forward to a run-off next month.

Heide Schmidt, the candidate of the extreme-right Freedom Party appeared delighted with her 17 per cent, a share of the vote large enough to give the party the role of kingmaker for the first time since it surged to prominence in the mid-1980s.

Who will secure the presidency is uncertain. Freedom Party votes will transfer in the second round to the People's Party, leaving Herr Streicher, the campaign favourite, with a fight on his hands.

The moribund two-party consensus under which all significant posts in politics and industry were carved up between the Social Democrats and the People's Party has been shattered by the rise of the Freedom Party. Its success has prevented either of the main parties gaining an overall majority.

The campaign has been tedious, with both main candidates exuding the stodgy affability they believed was required to inspire trust. Herr Streicher, a violinist who conducts orchestras in his spare time, sought to create an image of harmony with the country's traditions by presenting voters with recordings of himself conducting the "Blue Danube Waltz". Herr Klestil has concentrated on restoring Austria's image abroad with posters of himself meeting President Bush.

The holder of Austria's presidency is a figurehead with an essentially representative function. But he is expected to radiate moral superiority and wisdom. Austria wants European Community membership. The new president will have to move fast to re-establish ties severed after Dr Waldheim took office in 1986.

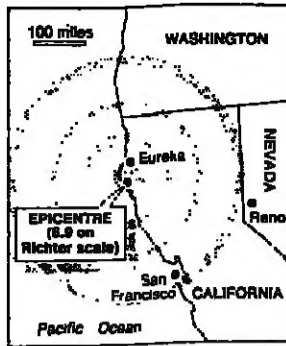
Aftershocks jolt California but scientists call for calm

BY JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AFTERSHOCKS continued to jolt northern California yesterday as authorities began to repair the damage caused by Saturday's major earthquake, the second to hit California in a week.

The biggest tremor, registering 6.0 on the Richter scale, set fire to a shopping mall in Scotia, a logging town 40 miles south of Eureka, and caused additional damage to the towns of Ferndale and Fortuna. Peter Wilson, the governor of California, declared a state of emergency in one county and said that preliminary estimates put the damage at £2 million, but scientists sought to calm fears that California might soon face the long-dreaded Big One, an earthquake of the kind which devastated parts of San Francisco in 1906.

Chris Browitt of the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh said that with every hour that passed the likelihood of an earthquake reaching 8 or larger on the Richter Scale was receding. The pattern of tremors in California, one of the most earthquake-prone parts of the world, was



such that if Saturday's earthquake was a precursor of a larger one, this should have struck within hours.

Dr Browitt's views were echoed by Waverly Person of the US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado. "We do not see this as any indication that this is leading up to anything bigger to come," he said. "You have to remember that the whole San Andreas fault system and others are active and certainly we are going to have a large earthquake sooner or later. But to say these ones are leading up to that would be wrong in our opinion."

Dr Browitt said Saturday's shock appeared to have hap-

pened around the southern boundary of a tectonic plate called the Juan de Fuca where it joins the San Andreas fault, which runs north-south. He said that if their assessment of the risk was correct then the area could continue to suffer aftershocks for days and possibly weeks but that the scale of these aftershocks should diminish until they were only detectable by instruments.

The arrival of these recent earthquakes has naturally triggered concern that a great earthquake might be on the way. The 1906 one that devastated San Francisco has been estimated as being around 8.3 and most scientists expect such an event could occur at any time, although trying to predict exactly when it will happen still eludes science.

An earthquake similar to this weekend's hit the Bay Area 50 miles south of San Francisco in October 1989, killing around 65 people. Most of these deaths occurred when a double-decker freeway collapsed. Dr Browitt said most of the earthquake-resistant buildings, which the

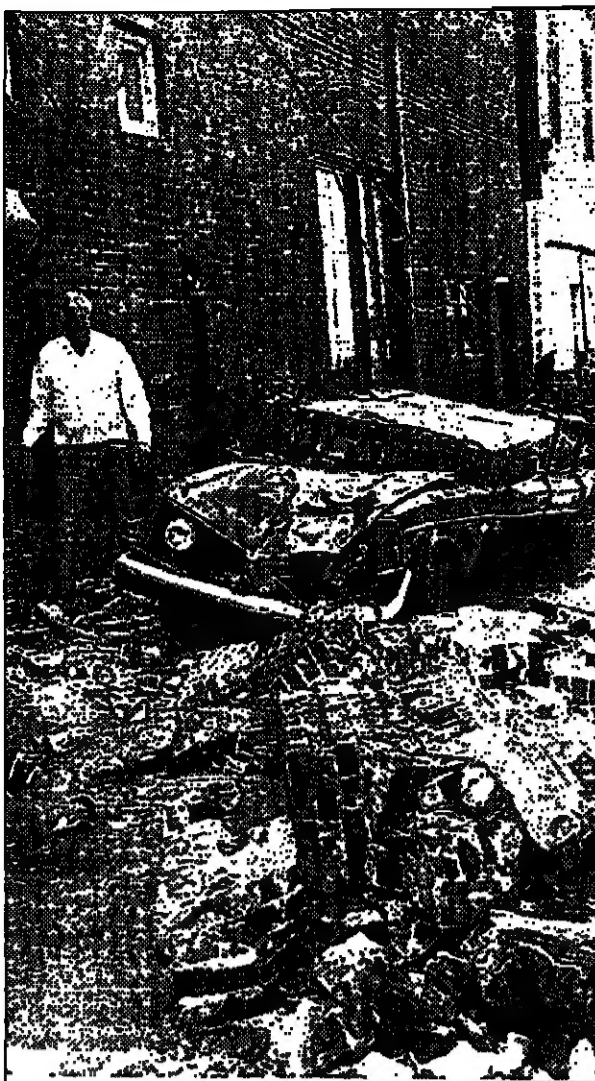
state has been developing, survived "quite well".

Other quakes in the area include the earthquake of 1857 and in 1872 off the main San Andreas fault system around the eastern part of the Owens Valley fault. In October 1987 eight people were killed by a smallish earthquake measuring 5.9 and 62 people died in 1971 when one measuring 7.5 hit southern California.

"There have also been a few 7s in northern California with one back in 1980," said Mr Person. The last great earthquake measuring 8 or greater was in north America was in Alaska in 1964.

World-wide, the level of earthquake activity appears to be stable and not on the increase, he said. "In a given year you would estimate around 18 major earthquakes of between 7 and 7.9 and one great one of 8 or more," said Mr Person.

"I have gone back 15 years and the average is about eleven-and-a-half major ones a year. The last great earthquake was in 1989 south of New Zealand."



Crushing blow: a resident of Ferndale, California, surveys his car, wrecked in Saturday's earthquake

Mexico blames state oil firm for explosions

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN GUADALAJARA

MEXICO'S attorney general, Ignacio Morales Lechuga, announced criminal proceedings yesterday against nine top officials of Pemex, the state oil company, and the Guadalajara city authority whose negligence, he says, was responsible for the deaths of at least 190 people last week.

Announcing the results of an investigation ordered by President Salinas de Gortari, Señor Morales said the massive explosions in the city's sewer system were caused by the leakage of large quantities of gasoline from a Pemex pipeline and had been exacerbated by the presence of a highly volatile liquid gas called hexane and other combustible industrial waste.

The Pemex and municipal officials, including Enrique Dau Flores, mayor of Guadalajara, had failed to act on repeated warnings of the imminent danger. Their negligence had led directly to at least 190 deaths, injuries to 1470 people, and the destruction of 1,124 homes, 450 businesses and more than 600 vehicles through a four-mile stretch of the district of La Reforma.

There were five principal explosions and many smaller ones between 10.30 last Wednesday morning and 2.20 that afternoon. Pemex had immediately blamed a privately owned cooking oil factory, La Central, accusing it of leaking hexane into the sewage system. Señor Morales said La Central and two other private companies would be questioned about the presence of hexane.

Also facing prosecution are those responsible for laying a water pipe next to the Pemex gasoline pipe several years ago in contravention of municipal safety standards. The water pipe had corroded the Pemex pipe and caused the

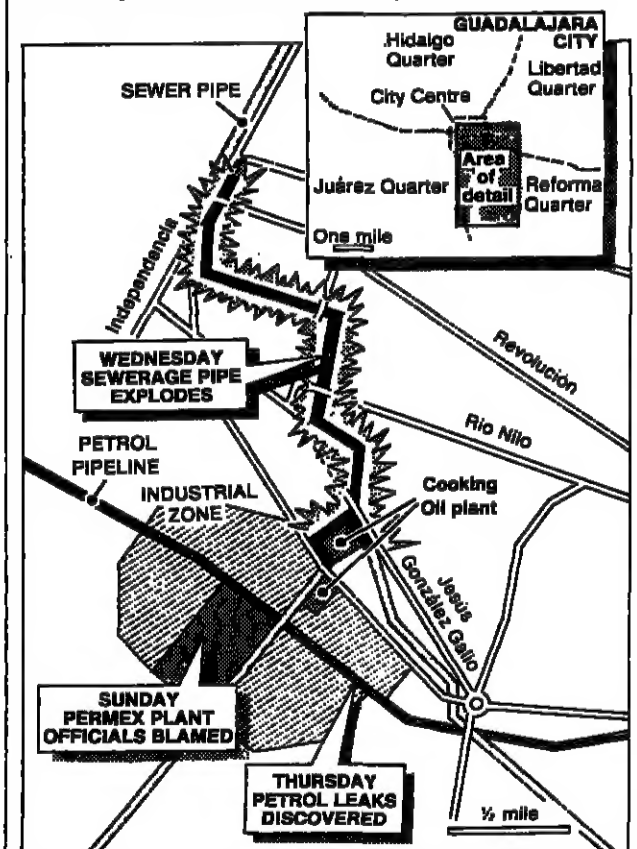
leak. By quickly blaming Pemex, one of Mexico's most powerful institutions, Señor Morales could help to minimise political damage to his ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. Lingered anger over government inactivity after the 1985 earthquake that killed more than 10,000 people in Mexico City dealt the party the worst blow in its 63-year history during the 1988 presidential elections.

Señor Morales pointed to the presence of unleaded petrol in a leak from a Pemex duct and added: "There are penal and civil responsibilities to private citizens and to public servants who, because of impotence, negligence or omission, contributed to the results now known."

"As for the tragic consequences of the explosion, we have established responsibility for negligence initiated by the mayor, Enrique Dau Flores, and the state secretary of urban development, Arístido Mejía," the attorney general said.

"It has been established that the loss of life could have been avoided if these public officials had acted... by evacuating residents from the area of highest risk." Señor Morales said both officials had been warned. He also accused officials of violations of the ecological balance and the environmental protection law.

Guadalajara is still a nervous city. Three more neighbourhoods were evacuated on Saturday after the authorities detected the smell of escaping gas. But there are no longer police on every corner, and ambulances racing down the streets. The immediate emergency is over, a Red Cross spokesman said. "What is left is the sombre task of cleaning up the staggering destruction."



Poll reveals Perot gaining on Clinton

BY JAMIE DETTMER

AS BILL Clinton, the Democratic front-runner for the presidential nomination, tried to escape the incessant questioning of his character by focusing attacks on President Bush's record in government, H. Ross Perot's independent challenge for the White House received a boost at the weekend when a national poll suggested that, for a fifth of the electorate, he is now the preferred candidate.

According to the opinion poll, conducted for *The New York Times*, Mr Perot, the Texan billionaire, is within five percentage points of Mr Clinton and is also taking support away from Mr Bush. On the eve of tomorrow's Pennsylvania primary, the poll makes sombre reading for both the established parties. It provides further evidence that voter discontent with traditional politics has not diminished since the high points in the campaigns of Patrick Buchanan and Jerry Brown.

More than half those surveyed said they were unhappy with the options being confined to President Bush and Mr Clinton; 61 per cent said government would work better if "we voted in all new people". A total of 57 per cent wanted fundamental change. The poll, which gave Mr

Bush 38 per cent, Mr Clinton 28 per cent, and Mr Perot 23 per cent, offered some evidence that Mr Perot is just a temporary vehicle for voter anger. More than two-thirds of those surveyed admitted they knew little about him. More than half were unable to say where he stood in the political spectrum. What his supporters in the poll like about him is his forcefulness and business background. Mr Perot was the only candidate in the poll who gained more favourable than negative opinions.

The campaign managers of the two established parties pointed out yesterday that spring polls are seldom accurate in predicting the eventual result in presidential contests. In 1980, John Anderson, the last serious independent candidate, consistently gained 20 or more per cent support in spring polls but attracted only 7 per cent of the presidential vote six months later.

Mr Perot's supporters argue that, backed by his personal wealth, estimated at \$3.5 billion (£2 billion), he will be a more powerful contender. They also say that voter discontent in 1980 was negligible compared to the anger now seen against politics-as-usual in the United States.



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Silent invasion of Kabul spotlights rebel skills

The immaculate conquest of the Afghan capital was achieved by fighters in one rebel faction outmanoeuvring another. Christopher Thomas writes from Kabul

THE CONQUEST Kabul began with the takeover of a police station near the Blue Mosque at 11am on Saturday. By mid-afternoon the first phase was over: 24 hours later the long-anticipated fighting between the rival guerrilla groups began in earnest.

As darkness fell on Saturday, a few dozen Mujahidin settled down for the night in the grounds of the grey-brick presidential palace, looking out calmly on a changed Kabul through tall black gates. The palace clocktower showed 6pm, the city streets were empty and the city was quiet. It was a sick, silent invasion.

The scene was the same everywhere — at the defence ministry, the foreign ministry, the television station, the central armory. All symbols of power changed hands in an operation planned meticulously and executed with discipline. It took a full day for the fundamentalist guerrillas of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to realise that they had been outmanoeuvred by their more disciplined and organised rivals.

Not a door was kicked in at the palace. Not so much as a piece of bread was looted. The presidential secretariat, square and ugly, stood empty and unmolested, the lights still on in many rooms. The doors stood open, but nobody entered.

The attacking rebels came from Jamiat-i-Islami, headed



Masood: his fighters did him proud

by Ahmad Shah Masood, who runs his own fiefdom in north-east Afghanistan. He has always been the most effective Mujahidin commander, and his men did him proud. He directed operations from Charikar, 30 miles north of the capital, where he has established a headquarters in a boarding house.

Forces also took part from the northern military council of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, whose coalition of army, militia and Mujahidin runs practically the entire north of the country. He has almost limitless forces to pour

into Kabul if necessary. Mr Masood provided the skill and discipline: General Dostum provided most of the muscle. Their men strolled around with rocket launchers, nervous in case the Pashtun Hezb-i-Islami opened fire on them. A few hours earlier fighters from that group took 50 rifles from a military guard post and walked off.

The colonel in charge laughed and joked with them: he gave up the guns without protest. He said it was all over, so why fight? His men, still in uniform, went home. Nobody troubled or threatened them. The vanquished were not ill-treated.

Outside the grubby Kabul hotel in the centre of town a group of Jamiat-i-Islami men captured a commander from the rival Hezb-i-Islami group. They slapped him about the face and pushed him around.

Then one of them took his hand, walked down the middle of the road with him, stopped and saluted. "Go home," he said. "It is finished." The man returned the salute, walked off into the shadows of the dimly lit street, and doubtless wondered why he was still alive.

Every road had a Mujahidin checkpoint. Here was Hezb-i-Islami, there was Jamiat, somewhere else it was General Dostum's men. Tajiks held others. A rebel group took over the institute for social sciences building. The Hezb-i-Islami men held on to the interior ministry, but nobody at this early stage tried to flush them out, though that was to change within a day.

Rival Mujahidin approached, there was a tense moment, and they went away. Having fought against one enemy for so long, perhaps the commanders could not stomach a fight among themselves. Lorry-loads of Mujahidin thundered down the roads, changing through rival checkpoints. And nobody fired a shot.

Dawn came yesterday with a bang. Big guns roared, smoke rose in some areas of the city, military helicopters clattered by and a few fighter planes flew low over the capital. On the streets some Mujahidin fighters decorated their rifles and rocket launchers with large red geraniums. They were effusively friendly.

As the day wore on street fighting continued as rival factions clashed. In the first day there was nothing like the terrible bloodletting that everybody had predicted: that, it now seems, may come later.

Battle for control, page 1
Leading article, page 11



Running battle: one of General Abdul Dostum's Mujahidin rebels firing his Kalashnikov rifle at fighters in the rival Hezb-i-Islami group as he sprinted across a street near the palace in Kabul yesterday. General Dostum is reputed to have limitless fighting resources

Fighting raises fear of permanent civil war

THE capture of Kabul ends nearly 14 years of war against the previously Russian-backed Pashtun government, but the fighting that broke out yesterday threatens to engulf the country in a conflict between rival tribal groups, with the prospect of permanent civil war.

Afghanistan has become divided into fiefdoms headed by Mujahidin commanders and local warlords. Kabul is only nominally the capital. The army has collapsed as a centralised force, the police have gone home, leading civil servants are hiding. The two main Mujahidin rivals are left to fight among themselves for control of the capital and for recognition in the world.

The north is run by Tajiks and Uzbeks, the south by Pashtuns. That leaves millions of people in the wrong place. There is a large pocket of Pashtuns in the far north, next to the Turkmenistan border. There is another in the north east, in the Tajik kingdom run by Ahmad Shah Masood, hero of the battle of Kabul.

More than 20 ethnic groups exist in the country and there are minorities in every village. There is infinite potential for ethnic carnage, as the hostilities in the capital yesterday showed.

The Pashtuns have dominated the government and armed force for centuries.

The country is now at the mercy of warlords ruling from remote fiefdoms. Our South Asia Correspondent writes



They kept down other ethnic groups with the presumption that their greater numbers gave them a right to the most wealth and power. Yet they are only 40 per cent of the population. There are two central questions: will they accept their loss without more bloodshed and will Afghanistan degenerate into an ethnic battlefield?

The chief participants could not be more different. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a

not have total control over his men in the field. His forces, although heavily armed with American weapons, have never fought a great battle.

Events moved so fast that many of their most powerful weapons were probably in the wrong place at the wrong time, and consequently the battle for Kabul was probably lost on the first day. Moving tanks, artillery and rockets across Afghanistan means crossing hostile territory, and it is evidently proved nearly impossible. There is enough in place, however, to bombard Kabul.

Mr Masood, leader of the Jamiat-i-Islami party, started adult life, like Mr Hekmatyar, as an engineering student in Kabul. He is based in the Panjshir valley, 40 miles north of Kabul, and his empire extends over most of the north-east.

He rules a city that has a small Tajik majority. Pashtuns are perhaps 35 per cent of the capital's population of 1.8 million. They will find it galling to be ruled by a Tajik, even one as illustrious as Mr Masood.

Perhaps a Pashtun will become president. Such a move would be typical of his tolerance. The Pashtuns still might revolt. But perhaps they will submit to a broad-based government if one can be installed.

Mr Masood has proved fre-

quently his acceptance of Afghanistan's complex pattern of tribal customs, ethnic rivalries and religious practices. Unlike the other six parties based in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, Jamiat-i-Islami is predominantly non-Pashtun. It is supported mostly by Persian-speaking Tajiks and to a lesser extent by the Uzbeks of northern Afghanistan.

The party therefore understands the meaning and the misery of ethnic subjugation. Mr Masood can also empathise with oppressed minorities like the Hazaras of the central highlands and the Nuristanis of the east, who suffered more than most under the Durrani Pashtun establishment.

Rebuilding Afghanistan will have to be done with foreign money, because the treasury is empty. It will be difficult to achieve with so much rivalry on the ground.

Foreigners arguably created the Afghan war. Their departure has brought one phase to an end. Washington and Moscow have become allies, but they have left a terrible legacy.

As darkness fell on Saturday superpower weapons given in another era thundered over Kabul. The coming days will demonstrate whether Pashtuns and non-Pashtuns are at war, or if this is just the dust settling.

Drugs are central to control of city

FROM JAWED NAQVI OF REUTERS IN DELHI

CONTROL of Afghanistan's multibillion-dollar opium trade is a key factor in the Mujahidin power struggle for Kabul, according to diplomats and Indian officials.

Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Pashtun and the leader of the Islamic fundamentalists, has refused to accept the structure of a Mujahidin council set up to take power in Kabul, the Afghan capital, after 14 years of civil war. Indian officials said large tracts under opium cultivation were controlled by Pashtun tribes on the Afghan-Pakistan border.

An Indian foreign ministry official said: "Even if Hekmatyar is not directly involved in the drugs trade, he is bound to protect the interests of his tribesmen who are." Officials said that Mr Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-i-Islami fundamentalist group, had lost some of his support in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

An Indian intelligence official said: "If he becomes a singular embarrassment to all his former allies, Hekmatyar or anybody in his place would need a fallback arrangement. Drugs are one vital source of influence in the region."

A Foreign Office report estimates that opium cultivation in the Pashtun region rose after the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, leaping from 550 tonnes in 1977 to 285 tonnes in 1989.

The report estimates there are about 200 refining laboratories in the Pashtun-dominated Khyber and Mohmand areas processing opium grown in Pakistan and Afghanistan. It said: "The former Kabul regime alleges that resistance groups are involved in drugs trade, but has not been able to provide any credible evidence of this."

Indeed, "Many observers consider it probable that some officers and military personnel are guilty of complicity with the dealers and are assisting with transportation of the drugs." The Soviet-backed Afghan government frequently accused the Mujahidin of drug dealing.

Two years ago, a government official said in Kabul that at least 40 per cent of 85,000 defecting Mujahidin were drug addicts. The Mujahidin used drugs to give them courage and stamina in their long war against communist rule in Kabul, he said.

Politicians focus on Levy camp

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

LIKE reluctant suitors competing for the hand of a vulgar but wealthy widow, Israel's political elite yesterday shamelessly courted the votes of the country's immigrant Moroccans.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour party leader, had to sit patiently next to each other under an Arab-style tent in a Jerusalem park yesterday as they were pined with sweetmeats and kebabs by the Moroccan community.

The dignitaries assembled beside them read like a *Who's Who* of Israeli politics. They included such extreme right-wingers as Rehavam Zeevi, the Molelet leader, who momentarily put aside his differences with Shulamit Aloni, the dovish Meretz Party leader, to celebrate the Moroccan feast of Mimouna marking the end of Passover.

The strong turnout was not a sudden conversion on behalf of the dominant Ashkenazim (European Jewish) political figures to the often alien customs of the Sephardic (Oriental Jewish) community. But it was an admission that the Sephardim will almost certainly determine the outcome of the election.

That realisation became clear last month when David Levy, the Moroccan-born foreign minister, threatened to resign from the government because of alleged discrimination by Mr Shamir. In addition, the Moroccan community, made up largely of blue-collar workers, has been hit harder than most by Israel's current economic travails and record 11 per cent unemployment.

Price rises could light Algiers fuse

Islamic fundamentalists bent on power are bringing the threat of conflict closer, Christopher Walker writes

AT THE Souk el-Fellah, the Soviet-style store in the Algerian shum of Bab el Oued, panic-stricken veiled women were stripping shelves of sugar and other subsidised products amid rumours that the military regime was about to free prices as part of its drive to shake off socialism.

"It is just like Moscow, but we have no Boris Yeltsin to lead us," said a state official. As we spoke, a bearded Islamic activist came into the room. The two Algerians became involved in a furious debate about the future shape of society that has brought the country to the brink of civil war. "They cannot crush us," said the fundamentalist, a member of the now banned Islamic Salvation Front. "Just for wearing this beard, I risk daily arrest, but I refuse to shave it off. We know we are following the true way of Muhammad, not like this creep," he added pointing to his Muslim companion.

I had last visited the store in October 1988, when it was a smoking ruin, ransacked in price riots which claimed some 200 lives and prompted the headlong rush to democracy halted by the January's coup. Then, as now, the crowds were talking about corruption among the old socialists who won independence from France, but the difference was Islamisation. The women were now all in Iranian-style veils and there

was a sense of resignation among the moderates. "Iran is behind this. It has forced religion on top of our economic problems and made gun powder," said Takouchete Achene, an anti-front Muslim. "The jump in prices will be the spark that lights the fuse."

Under an International Monetary Fund plan, subsidies on all items except bread, semolina and milk must end. Twice the move has been postponed but now seems inevitable.

Near by, along streets still plastered with Islamic slogans at the Es Sounna mosque where the front began in 1989, armed police with their fingers on the trigger supervised Friday prayers. Since the front was forced underground, it has reorganised itself into Baader-Meinhof-style cells, each led by a religious shaykh. Members of these cells have murdered 18 policemen over 45 days and nightly gunfire can now be heard in Algiers.

The supreme court yesterday began a final hearing of an appeal launched by the front against the ban imposed on March 4 when its dissolution was ordered because of violations of the law. A verdict is due by May 4.

After initial relief that the coup had prevented an Islamic state close to Europe's underbelly, there is a grim realisation that no viable structure has yet appeared to end support for the front.

Burmese junta frees aide to detained opposition leader

BY NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BURMA'S military junta yesterday freed seven more political prisoners, including a personal assistant of Aung San Suu Kyi, the detained opposition leader and Nobel peace prize winner, and five senior officials of her party.

Earlier, General Than Shwe, the new junta chief, made it known that he was prepared for a face-to-face meeting with Daw Suu Kyi to discuss her future, according to foreign diplomats and Rangoon residents. They said the possibility of some dialogue had been spread by official circles since the government began announcing important new policies and a change of leadership three days ago.

Those released also included Nita Yin Yin May, the information officer of the British embassy who was jailed in November 1990. The official Rangoon radio, monitored in Bangkok, said all of them were released from Rangoon's Insein jail yesterday afternoon.

Daw Suu Kyi, 46, has been detained in virtual isolation for almost three years, but the government said on Saturday that her British husband and their two teenage sons could now visit her. She has not been allowed to see them for more than two years. The government says it will release her only if she leaves the country. It has made clear that she will not be among the political prisoners currently being freed because she is regarded as a threat to national security.

U Nu, the former prime minister, and 11 other prisoners were released on Saturday and more are expected to be set free on a regular basis. Numbers are uncertain as the



Suu Kyi: family may now visit her

military has always denied holding political prisoners, but diplomats and international humanitarian organisations estimate that there are more than 2,000 of them. Of that total, about 20 are considered to be security risks.

Although Daw Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the elections two years ago, the military refused to hand over power and said she could never have a political role because of her marriage to a foreigner. Since she first emerged as the champion of democracy in the uprising against military rule in 1988 she has been vilified by the state-run media.

The attacks, which were likened to the worst Nazi propaganda, stopped recently and the authorities have begun referring to her as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi instead of Daw Suu Kyi. Rangoon residents regard the change as significant because it reminds everyone that she is the daughter of a national hero, the late General Aung San.

The reshuffled government has promised a new political programme, but democratic rule still appears far off. The military and opposition politicians are to meet within two months to discuss the convening of a constitutional conference by the end of October. A national referendum on the constitution will follow and then another general election. "The process could take years," said one ambassador in Rangoon.

Diplomats believe the concessions, limited as they are, represent a victory for the pragmatists over hardliners in the leadership. Major General Khin Nyunt, the junta's strongman, is known to have been pressing for some move forward from a stalemate which has isolated Burma from the outside world. Even its best friends, such as China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, have condemned its abuses of human rights.

Another force for change has been the economy, which has been falling into even deeper trouble. There is runaway inflation. Some basic foods have gone up 800 per cent in price in five years. Taxation is being spread more widely; there is now a special levy on ox carts. And state workers are so hostile to the government that sabotage in offices and other workplaces is commonplace.

The annual budget, which was announced last week, predicts a deficit of nearly £600 million, with spending forecast to exceed receipts by as much as 50 per cent. Defence alone will take up 35 per cent of the budget. The armed forces have almost doubled in numbers to 300,000 since 1988.

Miyazawa leaves his domestic woes behind

Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, leaves behind a host of domestic woes when he departs this week on a whirlwind tour of Europe, his second overseas trip since taking office.

Confidence is declining in Japan on whether Mr Miyazawa can keep his promises to enact political reform, stamp out corruption, and send troops overseas as UN peacekeepers. The latest monthly poll, by the Jiji news agency, showed voter support for his government falling to a new low of 21.1 per cent.

Frank Sinatra serenaded Shirley Maclaine during an impromptu 58th birthday

celebration for the actress in New Orleans where were they performing at the Superdome. He also gave her a napkin adorned with an original Sinatra drawing.

President Havel of Czechoslovakia arrived in Seoul for a three-day visit that will include a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Roh Tae Woo.

The German scientist Adolf Seilacher has won the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Crafoord Prize for research into evolution. The award is made for research in areas not covered by Nobel prizes.

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How to choose the Speaker

Lord St John of Fawsley suggests that MPs be left to take their own decision

Today the House of Commons will proceed to the first act of the new Parliament and elect a member to one of the great offices of state, ranking sixth in precedence after the royal family. The Speaker uniquely embodies in his person both the dignified and efficient aspects of Bagehot's dichotomy of the constitution. The dignity is manifested by the gorgeous robes of state, the golden glitter of the mace, and the pomp, ceremony and deference by which he is surrounded. The efficient takes its turn in his impartial daily presiding over one of the most turbulent and lively assemblies in the world; in his role as judge in making procedural rulings which, if wise, may influence generations of parliamentarians to come; and in taking the chair at conferences and conventions to shape the country's constitutional future.

So what sort of man is needed to discharge these momentous responsibilities? First, he must have gravitas. He must be able to impose his will and bring order out of potential chaos by the force of personality, presence and character alone. It is said that when Speaker Fitzroy entered the chamber, silence was evoked by the mere rustle of his gown. Nasty shenanigans not so easily quelled today. The Speaker must have a sense of humour and the gift of wit, preferably of the self-deprecating variety. I once heard Speaker Thomas calm an ill-tempered rebellion in the Commons when members were bellowing "It's in the newspapers Mr Speaker" with the single phrase, delivered in that mellow Welsh accent: "So's my horse". And the Speaker must have good health and stamina, to survive the long hours, the heat of the bright lights, the stale air and the high-decibel assault on ear and nerve. The people who tend to regard all those in public life as characters out of a cartoon need occasionally to be reminded that beneath the heavy official robes there is flesh and blood.

Then comes the key question. How do you identify this paragon? At this point you descend into a procedural thicket of such muck and complexity that Lord Jenkins of Hillhead's concise letter on the subject in *The Times* last Thursday becomes comparatively translucent. The difficulty starts with the happily engendered Mr Heath, who will preside over the proceedings as Father of the House. Does he call the Conservative nominee first and the Labour second, and anyway does the one who speaks first have the advantage or the second, who is the first to be voted upon. (My own view is that convention indicates that senior government backbenchers' names should be considered first.)

Let me start with the known landmarks. When an election to the speakership takes place, the governing party has the right not to choose the individual Speaker but to see him drawn from its own ranks. If in a subsequent Parliament the government changes, the normal practice is for the incumbent speaker to be re-elected. The notion that the speakership moves from one side of the House to the other is common but erroneous, which is not to deny that a popular error may contain its own intuitive wisdom. The justification for present practice is that it goes a long way to ensure that elections are not contested and the new Speaker has the great advantage of starting his reign in a united House, not a bruised, fractious and fragmented one.

There have been two exceptions to this rule in the past 50 years, the first in 1951 when Speaker Morrison defeated the then deputy Speaker, Major Milner, by 318 votes to 251, the second, largely missed by the pundits, in 1971 when Selwyn Lloyd (Conservative) defeated Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (Labour) by 294 votes to 55. Sir Geoffrey's contest was in many ways the more significant, since it represented a spontaneous rebellion from the back benches against a stitching up of the election by the party bosses, and it ended in paradoxical fashion with Sir Geoffrey being a reluctant candidate, rising to protest that he neither wanted the post nor had been consulted about it by his proposers.

The situation to be resolved today turns on the difficulty for the Tory whips that while Labour has a clear consensus candidate in the person of the experienced and personable Betty Boothroyd, the Tories have no dominant star but five candidates, none with obvious majority support and all with different handicaps. Peter Brooke, for example, has presence and is widely respected, but to pass direct from the cabinet to Speaker's chair is unprecedented, the nearest parallel being that of Sir Harry Hyton Foster in 1959, and he was not a partisan minister but a law officer.

Miss Boothroyd's supporters put forward a variety of arguments in her favour. She is deputy Speaker (but there is no apostolic succession in speakership); she is Labour and it would be fair, and make for less rowdiness, to give Labour a chance. These are beguiling arguments, but without any determining constitutional significance. It might well be in the interest of Parliament for the whips on either side to reach such a consensus, but are Tory whips in their smoke-filled rooms, where patronage is all, noble enough to give up such a prize?

My own solution is at once more radical and, I believe, more in the spirit of the constitution. Why do not the whips of all parties follow the sagacious example of the prime minister, withdraw from the scene, and leave the members to come to their own decision. The collective judgment of the House of Commons is wiser than that of any individual in it, and if left alone the members might well come up with the right answer and the best person.

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The Tory chairmanship is a key job that has often gone to the wrong man, says Peter Riddell

Chairman's charter

John Major is widely expected to appoint Sir Norman Fowler as Tory party chairman in place of Chris Patten. Sir Norman has already adopted the cynicism of the about-to-be-anointed. The choice is more important than it may seem. The chairman is one of the few detached advisers to a prime minister, while now, after an election, is the only time when organisational changes can be made to stick. Most party leaders have got the decision wrong.

The chairmanship has been a frustrating post. Birkenhead dismissed Sir George Younger's activities in 1922 as the insubordination of "the cabin boy". Three of Macmillan's chairmen, Lords Hailsham and Butler and Iain Macleod, left unhappily, while Margaret Thatcher worked closely only with Cecil Parkinson of her six party chairmen.

In general, the wrong people have been picked at the wrong time. When the post was created by Balfour in 1911, the aim was to have "an officer of cabinet rank who should be a member of one of the houses of Parliament, but otherwise have no special parliamentary functions". That sensible principle has often been ignored, while many leaders have regarded the chairmanship as important only ahead of an election and appointed caretakers before then.

Party chairmen have been seen as rivals by a prime minister (Lord Butler and Norman Tebbit), have lacked political weight (John Gummer and Peter Brooke) or have been burdened by departmental work (both the latter plus Lord Butler and Macleod). Several have lacked the time or the authority to make necessary internal changes.

Ahead of elections, chairmen have worked against a tight deadline. Mr Tebbit notes in his memoirs *Upwardly Mobile*: "With less

than two years before an election, I decided that there was no time to assess the organisation properly, make any desirable changes and heal the wounds of what might be painful reorganisation". Similarly, in November 1990, Mr Patten had time only for some immediate cost-cutting, plugging obvious gaps and concentrating efforts on critical or marginal seats.

Conservative Central Office was criticised during the campaign, as it invariably is, win or lose, for mis-handling tactics. Presentation was at times confused, partly because of the inexperience of some officials and partly because Mr Patten was distracted by his losing battle at Bath. In the end what mattered was the strategy picked last winter by Mr Patten and Mr Major, focusing on tax, economic competence and leadership.

If these strategic decisions were crucial, organisation still matters, in raising money and in marginal seats. There is a big job for a political heavyweight. Even after spending only a third as much in real terms as in 1987, the Tories have a big overdraft and are getting less money from big companies. A new chairman needs to develop new sources of funds from middle-sized donors, as the Republicans have in America. Now is also the time for a fundamental restructuring of Central Office, shifting resources from the centre and regions to marginal seats, to become as strong campaigners there as the Liberal Democrats are.

Sir Norman Fowler looks more a safe pair of hands than an organisational dynamo. But he should avoid many of the obvious pitfalls. He is trusted by the prime minister

(whom he accompanied as a minder during the campaign), he is respected by colleagues for his long ministerial experience, and, now on the backbenches, he has no departmental responsibilities. Sir Norman will carry weight and, as his memoirs show, he has a sensible scepticism about the hype of the advertising men.

There are also no obvious alternatives — Michael Heseltine, a possible pre-election chairman, is busy enough at present. Jeffrey Archer has the energy but has dropped some catches. He will no doubt get his political reward soon. But Sir Norman should beware the view of Lord Young of Grafham, reported to have said in 1987, when unsuccessfully seeking the chairmanship while remaining trade secretary, that since the party had a turnover of only £5 million a year it was worth only one day a week of anyone's time.

The next chairman will have to work harder than that if the Tories are to avoid their familiar pre-election anxieties in 1995 or 1996.

Jason Donovan: the truth



Fashion's creature: Donovan has his moment in the spotlight, but is actually being devoured by the forces of a fickle industry

Bernard Levin weighs a pop star he had never heard of against eternity and is encouraged

I understand, and am delighted to accept, that Mr Jason Donovan is not a homosexual, much less a homosexual who denies he is one. (Mind you, I am not a homosexual either, but as yet I have not been able to find a jury daft enough to give me a couple of hundred thousand pounds.)

When I began to look into this interesting story, I was plunged at once into confusion. I learnt that there was a pop singer called Donovan, and all with different handicaps. Peter Brooke, for example, has presence and is widely respected, but to pass direct from the cabinet to Speaker's chair is unprecedented, the nearest parallel being that of Sir Harry Hyton Foster in 1959, and he was not a partisan minister but a law officer.

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has plenty of time to surpass even these achievements: he is not yet half way through his twenties, and it is not time for him to weep, like Alexander, because there are no more worlds to conquer.

I shall come back to him, and my ignorance, in a moment, but for now I must concentrate on *The Face*, the magazine which published the libel. (That, interestingly, led into another channel altogether; many men and women who are homosexual were indignant at what they thought the verdict implied — that homosexuality is in itself shameful and bound to lower those who profess it in the eyes of right-thinking people: outside the court there were placards reading "Glad to be Gay" and "Dykes are OK". How long will it be before there is a libel action which turns on a complaint that the defendant wrongly accused the plaintiff of being sexually orthodox? I bet it has already happened in America.)

Mindful of the importance of primary sources, I bought a copy of *The Face*, which cost £1.60. Much of it is written in a code utterly indecipherable by anyone over, say, 25. This, for instance, from an excellent and well-researched article about Belfast: "The rapid growth of the scene has

meant an influx of a more undesirable element, however, and raves at places like Kelly's in Portrush or Circus Circus are full of what are known as "spiders" (as in spidersmen, who would once have been wearing snow-washed jeans but are now clad in shell suits and a liberal coating of Vicks).

The magazine's emphasis, of course, is on pop music, but it is crisply and freshly couched, and there is space for another colourful and thorough article about the homeless. (Naturally, it's all the fault of the government.) There are other accolades: an expert in this field reveals that *The Face* "is the magazine that identified Madonna as a cultural icon years before anyone else", and "told the world to wear black r-a-r-a skirts with Doc Martens". But you get the idea.

Now it is time to draw the threads together. There is nothing wrong with Mr Donovan ("I think I would see myself as a role model") that maturity won't cure, and he may warble to his adoring throng of followers (mostly, it seems, some half a dozen years younger than he) until he retires or is replaced in the affections of a new generation of infant followers by another, identically cloned, warbler. Meanwhile, *The Face*, if it survives the

damages and costs, will continue to lose circulation: at its peak it was 95,000 but is 63,000 now.

Wherein lies the similarity between the libelled performer and the libelling magazine? It is nothing to do with homosexuality, I assure you. It is that both are characteristically ephemeral products of our wretched time, the hallmark of which is that it not only devours its idols, but devours the replacement idols ever more rapidly.

Of course, these singers and these publishers of magazines have a joint problem: both must be always replenishing their audiences, as the young grow less young and leave their younger selves behind. But what happens when the tambora stops and different-coloured tickets come out? The only meaning our culture has (and a poor one) is its changeability, which is as inevitable as it is unpredictable; that is what has trimmed the circulation of *The Face*. Whether the same will happen to our heterosexual hero, only time will tell; but assuredly he won't be warbling to his young acolytes when he is 50.

There is only one way to settle the argument: the longanimous test. Time makes no claim to pronounce on the sexuality of pop-singers, but is ruthless in its estimation of their songs. Time holds the scales impartially; he watches to see which scale goes down, and asks only one question: is it art? If it is, it will remain; if it does not remain, it is not art.

The pained reply is "We are not making art" (to which the counter-reply is "You're telling us"). There is no real harm in this by-by-night noise and the people who make it, as I have said before, Gresham's Law does not hold in these matters, because even the most similar noises cannot abolish Mozart. So when we are told that *The Face* was first to identify Madonna as a cultural icon, we tend to ask — I do, anyway — who will be the first to notice that Madonna has disappeared?

It won't matter, for a dozen replicas will by then be jostling for the succession, as — sooner or later — will happen to Mr Donovan. That will not at all mean that his talents have dried up, much less that they were small, only that the whirligig of time brings in his revenges — a phrase which has stood the test of time for some 400 years already, and may go on for another 400 at least. Incidentally, when *The Face* told the world to wear black r-a-r-a skirts with Doc Martens, did the world do so? I have a horrible feeling that it did.



...and moreover
MATTHEW PARRIS

Derby born and Derbyshire bred, strong in the arm and thick in the head. So runs the contemporary Midlands folk wisdom. "Strong in the arm and weak in the head" is more authentic, while experts insist on "Wick in the head", adding that Wick does not mean weak but formidable. My comparative study of London and Derbyshire mice favours the contemporary version.

From 1975-1990 I lived in a terraced house near Clapham Junction that had mice. It was a war of attrition on both sides. The mice tried to deprive me of food, and I tried to feed the mice poison. Nobody won. The mice would claim that by the end of the campaign there were as many of them as at the start. I replied there were as many of me too; and that several mice died during hostilities.

The mice would counter with the remark, plainly true, that the day is coming when I shall no longer exist, whereas there will still be mice. I replied that at Cambridge we called this a "category mistake". The mice answered that if they were making a category mistake, so did Jesus Christ in observing "The poor always ye have with you, but me ye have not always." (John 12 verse 8).

I did my best to contrive that the mice would not always be with me at Clapham Junction. With the fox-hunting brigade. I deplore poisoning, so — in the absence of a Clapham mouse-hunt — I tried traps.

There are two main brands of traditional mousetrap: the Little Nipper and the Sentry. I prefer the Little Nipper, marginally more sensitive. But not sensitive enough for the London mice. Weedy-looking things, skinny, with dandruff fly, they got the chocolate ("they prefer this to cheese"), leapt back and never sprung the trap. I was providing mice with free chocolate and aerobic classes.

Regrettably, I resorted to poison. Even here the London mice proved resilient, eating huge quantities, looking a little under the weather, but failing to die. However, if you give them enough, they do die. I shall spare you the awful details. Suffice it to say that poison kept them at bay but never achieved total wipe-out; while I never once caught a London mouse in a traditional trap.

Around the same time, I was moving into my Derbyshire house, spending weekends surrounded by green fields. And grey mice. They come in from the fields in autumn and, unless you make them uncomfortable, stay. So do field mice and voles, but I can distinguish these. Your Derbyshire Common Mouse is the same race as your London Mouse but more muscular, and with lusty fur.

He or she is also incredibly stupid. You don't even need chocolate to trap them in a Little Nipper trap. They walk on to the sprung platform just to have a look in the night. They never hear the trap springing in time. They never jump fast enough. They always perish.

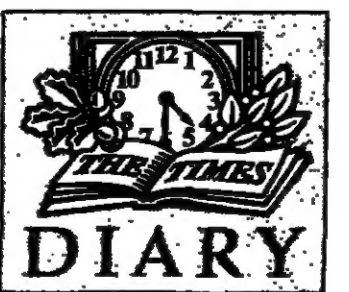
I leave further research and analysis to the universities. Even as I conclude this essay I am aware you may not think I am serious or that I want the universities to take up the challenge. But I am entirely serious, and I do.

Return of Kinnock?

NEIL KINNOCK returns to Westminster today still unsure about his future after he stands down in July, and friends are trying to make his mind up for him. Although he has told close colleagues he has ruled out continuing as a member of the shadow cabinet, some are urging him to reconsider — and hold out the prospect of him becoming shadow secretary of state for Wales.

Kinnock's position is unique. No other leader in recent memory has resigned at the tender age of 50, and friends believe that once he has cast an eye over the political wilderness awaiting him, Kinnock will take little persuading to continue on the front bench. His election by Labour MPs would be virtually guaranteed, and Kinnock has already announced his intention of standing for the party's national executive.

The former leader could be in the Commons for another 20 years, and none of his colleagues wish to see him grow old and bitter on the back benches in the style of Edward Heath. "John Smith might have mixed feelings, but it would surely be better for him to have Kinnock on the inside," says one prominent shadow cabinet member. "The Welsh post is self-contained, and there would be little danger of him reading on the toes of his successor."



The foreign spokesperson is popular, with Jack Cunningham. Tony Blair and Ann Chynoweth falls in her bid for the deputy leadership interest. "It is the one job everyone fancies," says a shadow cabinet member. "The next five years on the Labour front bench are going to be pretty dull. As shadow foreign secretary there is at least the advantage of getting to see the world."

As Ahmad Shah Masood made good his control of Kabul last night, his brother Madawali, who lives in Wimbledon, was musing over a future at Afghanistan's high table. Madawali, the London representative of his brother's Jamiat-i-Islami mujahidin group, now feels he can return to his brother's side as a senior aide. "Obviously I must see what happens first, but I am convinced that Masood is now in complete control," said the LSE graduate yesterday. Forming a completely new regime is never easy, but Madawali is eager to exploit the diplomatic skills he has picked up after eight years in Britain — as foreign minister, perhaps.

My lady's chamber LACKING the opulent expense of the Speaker's chambers, whose incumbent will be chosen today,

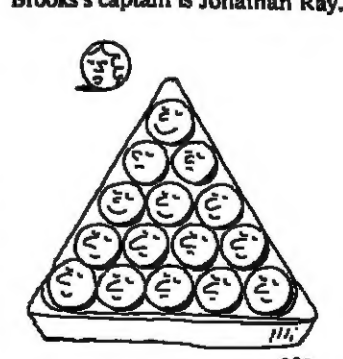
most MPs are beginning an anxious search for secretarial space at Westminster.

While Betty Boothroyd, Peter Brooke and others fight for the luxurious apartments accorded the country's senior commoners, other members will be dancing attendance on Julie Scott-Thomson, who holds the key to the allocation of secretaries' offices.

The secretaries have little say in the matter. All negotiations are carried out between MPs and the redoubtable Scott-Thomson, the "clerk in charge" under the Sergeant-at-Arms. In the past members have tried to woo the holder of the post with bouquets, chocolates, scent and plain flattery. Scott-Thomson is having none of it. "There are definite guidelines. We have to be seen to be fair and I stick by the rules."

The Tory MP David Amess, however, who worked for nine years in a converted broom cupboard, now has his secretary comfortably installed next door to a rather grander retreat he has obtained overlooking the river. For the victor of Basilidon, it seems, anything is possible.

against the Carlton, which has just reinstated its snooker table in a basement room after the bomb damage last year. The Carlton team is headed by Giles Chichester, the son of Sir Francis; Brooke's captain is Jonathan Ray.



son of the wine writer Cyril Ray, and the Garrick team is led by the biographer Richard Hough.

Matches will be played throughout the year with the final in November and the winners will be treated to a weekend trip to the land of cognac — not the smoking rooms of Pall Mall, of course, but Jarnac in France.

Margaret Thatcher may find she is fighting a familiar enemy in opposing the admission of men to Somerville, her Oxford alma mater. Students at the college, a female preserve for 113 years, detect a Brussels influence in the campaign. As the college debated the question last night, there were undergraduate mutterings that the EC had sparked off the furor by sending a letter to Somerville saying Europe no longer permitted such acts of discrimination.

"Sympathetic sources in the senior common room tell us there is a confidential letter, which we will not be shown," says Suzanne Parker, JCR president.

Commonwealth countries, India and the West, inherited English law, now well without wigs. In countries where the wig is worn, it is a necessary final of the system, it should be worn by heads in every court, from Lords to magistrates' courts.

DA

Does wearing half a pound of waxed white horse hair on his head make a fashionable Lord? No, three centuries millenium to the majesty of authority of a barrister? The question is about to be asked at intervals at least, in the House of Commons, in the House of Lords, and in the House of Commons. On the first day of the Court will vote on whether the wearing of wigs in their courts is appropriate to the dignity of the highest court in the land. It is a necessary final of the system, it should be worn by heads in every court, from Lords to magistrates' courts.



BACK TO THE 11-PLUS

A secondary education system is either "comprehensive" or it is divided into different types of school. If it is divided, admission to the more desirable schools means pupils being selected by those schools, preferably by objective examination. Individual parents may put schools under pressure to expand to take more pupils, but schools will do this only up to a point. To pretend that the selective opt-out structure emerging as government policy has anything to do with parental choice is a deception. It is a return to the system prior to 1965. While parents may notationally choose their preferred comprehensive school and appeal against a rejection, selection is objective. It has nothing to do with choice, as any parent of a rejected child will know. All else is double-talk.

Now that the election is over and a new education secretary, John Patten, is in place, the government must say whether it really envisages countryside selection at 11. The 219 opt-out, or grant-maintained, schools so far have mostly done so to benefit from bigger grants. They are now being allowed to "change their character", code for becoming selective, and roughly a third are in the process of doing so. A school in West Yorkshire has formally declared itself a grammar school. Wandsworth has indicated that all its secondary schools are to become selective from 11. As many as 2,000 secondary schools are now considering opting out — or "opting in" to Whitehall-aided status — both to get bigger grants and to choose their own pupils. Many councils are facing up to half their schools opting out, at which point a planned local school service is barely viable, and a chaos of soaring or plummeting school numbers and parental litigation will doubtless ensue.

Most countries and most children in Britain experience selection at some stage of their education. The question faced by reformers in the 1950s and 60s was, first, how late could this be postponed to keep every child's options open without holding back brighter pupils and, second, how far could flexibility between institutions be maintained. Even under the tripartite system laid down in 1944, grammar, technical and secondary modern schools were intended to be grouped together on one campus.

The ills of the system that emerged from the 1965 comprehensive reorganisation were partly ideological, partly institutional. Educational theory at the time was anti-academic and discredited much of education

in parental eyes. Also a fixation with big schools meant the suppression of many sound grammar schools that could have formed "senior high" or sixth-form colleges, based on postponed selection at 15 or 16. The "all-through" comprehensive was (wrongly) recommended by government.

The structure that appears, somewhat confusedly, to be emerging under the present government implies a reversion to the old system, with a public examination divide at the end of the primary stage. There will be the added rigidity that children rejected for admission by opt-out schools will find themselves more fiercely downgraded to what will become a "third class" of British education, the local council schools, trailing after private and grant-maintained ones. Money given direct by Whitehall to the opt-out schools is already far in excess of what local councils can afford per head. Here is a de facto education voucher system, but a grossly unequal one.

This approach to secondary education is a radical change and has nothing to do with parental choice. It implies a more or less final divergence in pupil aptitude discernible by testing at the age of 11. This time round, Mr Patten and his colleagues should at least avoid such phrases as "equal but different" schools for "equal but different" children, much in vogue in the 1940s. Instead he should explain why 11 is the right age for selection, rather than 13 or 16. His new system may attract many middle-class parents back into the state system. But it must degrade the education of those rejected.

These rejects, whether in under-financed council schools or in voucher-financed urban Dotheboys Halls, will once again be identified by all and sundry as a poorly educated underclass and the cause of Britain's skill-shortage. Councils such as Cambridgeshire are hoping to get rid of all their secondary schools. Even Westminster, faced with half its schools opting out, does not know which way the government wants it to turn.

The reintroduction of 11-plus selection is a hugely significant policy, the direct result of the government's attempted "nationalisation" of secondary schooling in England and Wales. Of all the options for state secondary school reform it is probably the worst, and certainly a colossal gamble. It appeared nowhere in the Tory manifesto, and should not come about by stealth or terminological confusion. Mr Patten should say clearly whether he believes in it or not.

TRIBAL TURMOIL

Ahmad Shah Masood proved his skills as a guerrilla commander with the disciplined and virtually bloodless capture of Kabul from government forces on Saturday. But any hopes that Afghanistan's 14-year-old civil war could be brought to a swift end were short-lived. Street-to-street fighting now threatens the capital with bloodshed, as the Pashtun forces of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the fundamentalist leader of Hezb-i-Islami, belatedly try to carry out their threat to occupy the city. Afghanistan is reverting to its age-old pattern of continuous warfare between chieftains of rival clans.

The anger and frustration of the Hezb fighters has been aggravated by the realisation that they have been outmanoeuvred by the six other Mujahidin groups that have formed a loose coalition and installed an interim government under the nominal leadership of Sibghatullah Mujadidi, a moderate backed by Mr Masood and the Jamiat-i-Islami. Mr Hekmatyar is now trying to sabotage the agreement he refused to sign, with his forces shooting wildly at civilians and former Mujahidin colleagues.

The fighting leaves in tatters the noble but naive United Nations plan for an interim government, followed by elections. It was based on the assumption that the squabbling leaders of the Mujahidin factions in Pakistan could control the commanders in the field, who have fought in the mountains for over a decade. The UN and the West may now be tempted to throw their weight behind Mr Masood. He is preferable to Mr Hekmatyar. Well educated and so far magnanimous in avoiding retribution in Kabul for the city's support for the communists, he has been able to restrain his own fighters. As a

member himself of a minority tribe, he knows that Afghanistan's patchwork of ethnic differences means that no government will last unless it lets tribal elders rebuild civilian life in the ruined country.

The same cannot be said for Mr Hekmatyar. He is a hardliner who combines Islamic zeal with the arrogant assumption that the Pashtuns, numbering around 40 per cent of the population, should rule in Afghanistan as they have for the past 250 years. He not only regards the West as an enemy but is likely to repeat the worst abuses brought to Iran by Khomeini. His rejection of any accord with the other Mujahidin was based on his confidence that his faction could fight on and win. He was even ready to deal with the former communists. But he may have miscalculated. The Americans saw at least two years ago where his ideology was leading him. Even Pakistan has begun to distance itself from him.

Yet outside backing for Mr Masood will only prolong the war. Foreigners, notably Russians, exacerbated the war in Afghanistan. They have left behind a huge arsenal of weapons and a population that has made warfare a way of life. Encouraging any one faction against another would give its rivals a spurious claim to be the true Islamic patriots fighting off the designs of the infidel. Petty chieftains would see themselves as the heroes of centuries ago, while moderates would be tainted with collusion. No outside nation has ever mediated in Afghanistan without suffering a cruel defeat. The United Nations negotiated the Russian exit. Its job is now done. The world has no business in that country's tribal disputes and blood feuds. Of those, there are certainly many yet to come.

DASH THEIR WIGS!

Does wearing half a pound of permanently waved white horse hair on his or her head, in the style made fashionable at the court of Louis XIV three centuries ago, add a millimetre to the majesty of a judge or the authority of a barrister? This prickly old question is about to be asked again, as it has been at intervals at least since the time of Trollope and Dickens, but this time by no less a figure than the new Lord Chief Justice.

On the first day of the new legal term tomorrow, the judges of the Commercial Court will vote on whether to end the wearing of wigs in their court. If they accept the submissions made by the Commercial Bar Association to abolish wigs, the rest of the High Court may follow their example. Wigs are already not worn in the matrimonial courts, where they are deemed inappropriate to delicate domestic topics. In the highest court in the land, the law lords maintain their dignity in dark suits. If the wig is a necessary finial of the English legal system, it should be worn on top of legal heads in every court, from the House of Lords to magistrates' courts.

Commonwealth countries such as Canada, India and the West Indies, which inherited English law, now manage perfectly well without wigs. In Commonwealth countries where the wig is retained, it looks even odder than in England, where it is at least a relic of the normal wear for pink and pinstriped gentlemen in the reign of Queen Anne.

The English may love tradition and dressing up. English law, more than Roman and other systems, is based on case law and precedent, on not tampering with what worked in the past. But unlike Beefeaters at the Tower of London and Guards at Buckingham Palace, barristers are not an arm of the tourist board. There can be good reasons for wearing a wig. Policemen, the armed services, traffic wardens and ticket inspectors need some conspicuous identification, if only to distinguish them from impostors. The Speaker and clerks of the House of Commons wear wigs, presumably to avoid their being mistaken for Members of Parliament. Academics and heads of schools wear gowns as emblems of authority (mortarboards and women's academic caps are almost as absurd as wigs).

The wig is supposed to convey gravitas to a judge and to a barrister a kind of impersonal anonymity. But just as the owl does not make the monk, the wig does not make the lawyer. A good lawyer needs no wig to make his case: the incompetence of a bad lawyer cannot be concealed beneath a wig a foot high. In their antique Latin jargon lawyers have a maxim, *Lex neminem cogit ad vana seu inutilia peragenda*: "The law forces no one to do vain or useless things." The lawyer's wig has become a vain and useless thing, getting between the customer and the law of the land. Lawyers' Latin may survive a little longer. But the wigs should go now.

Questionable aspects of British economic recovery

From Dr John Adams
Sir, The economic recovery promoted by Sir Allen Sheppard and his friends (letter, April 23) might be likened to a hot air balloon in which the lift is provided by the breath of the men in the basket.

What do they mean by "recovery" — a return to "normal growth" in the economy of 3 per cent per year? Another doubling of the traffic on our roads in 30 years? One can appreciate why the signatories whose jobs depend on building roads or making cars might welcome that. Another doubling of the number of tourists in 15 years? One can understand why the hoteliers on the list might sign up for that. It is less obvious what United Biscuits expects of us.

The spirit of enterprise they invoke is myopic. In the developed world the entrepreneurs' balloon bobs up and down on an ever-rising trajectory. Obvious to the signs of planetary stress that Prince Charles, in a report on the same day, invited the world to address, they huff and they puff — with determination, boldness, optimism and confidence.

As they rise ever higher, through the ozone hole and the roof of the greenhouse, the local symptoms of planetary stress, like Twyford Down and Oxleas Wood, become mere specks.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ADAMS,
University College London,
Geography Department,
26 Bedford Way, WC1.
April 23.

From Mr Ian Bryant
Sir, You are being less than fair to the Treasury when you accuse it of being over-cautious (leading article, April 24). As long as we can see the "green shoots of recovery", previously only visible through politicians' rose-tinted specs. The recent election result is probably all that is needed to switch the economy to gentle, sustainable growth.

Of course the Treasury got it all wrong in 1988, but so did almost all the City number-crunchers and gurus of academe. Having just struggled through the resulting mega-boom and bust, the last thing we need is to be set on course for another one.

Before interest rates fall further, limited credit controls must be introduced to ensure that this time the recovery is built on something

more substantial than the over-borrowing of the late Eighties: mortgage limits back to three times one salary, 2½ times joint salaries, to a 90 per cent maximum of the property's value; increases to existing mortgages solely for substantial improvements to the property; minimum hire-purchase deposits; faster credit-card repayments; personal loans limited to a percentage of income.

Of course such restrictions may prove politically impossible in this age of over-expectation, but that's no argument for not even trying to implement them before interest rates are lowered further.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BRYANT,
Hipping Hall, Cowan Bridge,
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.
April 24.

From the Director General of the Institute of Export
Sir, We welcome the positive and optimistic letter from Sir Allen Sheppard and 40 other major business leaders.

A major element of the recovery will result from a real and sustained growth in British exports. We look to the government, in particular Mr Heseline, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to create a real "level playing field" to enable us to achieve it.

Yours faithfully,
IAN J. CAMPBELL,
Director General,
The Institute of Export,
Export House,
64 Clifton Street, EC2.
April 23.

From Mr Kenneth P. Armitage
Sir, I am delighted for the 41 leading industrialists who can now look "with boldness and determination" to making "recovery and a self-fulfilling prophecy". No doubt they can feel secure in their lofty empires, knowing that financial freedom means they can purchase whatever they wish.

But what about the hundreds of thousands, millions in fact, who now find themselves in an economic swamp because they have lost their livelihoods through redundancies brought about by high interest rates and short-term measures to reduce costs and overheads? Even the British Chambers of Commerce say (report, April 23) that unemployment

will continue to rise to almost three million, seasonally adjusted of course, by the year's end.

That means there are at least three million who will not have the income to spend in hotels, pubs, clubs and restaurants or on homes, electrical goods, air travel and even books. Perhaps the industrialists' companies and service-sector industries can do without those customers.

Yours faithfully,
K. P. J. ARMITAGE,
29 Stoneham Close,
Petersfield,
Hampshire.
April 23.

From the Director General of the Chemical Industries Association

Sir, A new parliamentary term in Britain, closely followed by UK presidency of the EC Council of Ministers, ought to be marked by vision. Within that we must surely recognise the importance of technology in solving pressing environmental problems and helping create prosperity and influence in a changing world.

Education policy, which rightly featured in all the party manifestos, must encourage a cultural shift to embrace manufacturing and commerce.

Helped by strong advocacy from industry and government, along with an educated presentation in the media, we have an opportunity to be internationally successful as a manufacturing nation. Shall we grasp it?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. L. COX,
Director General,
Chemical Industries Association,
Kings Buildings,
Smith Square, SW1.
April 24.

From Mr J. Stuart Jones
Sir, As a small businessman and accountant to some 200 small businesses I am more than willing to show what enterprise can achieve and to encourage my clients likewise.

However, I would feel more confident if Sir Allen Sheppard's co-signatories had included the chairmen of the high street banks.

Yours faithfully,
J. STUART JONES,
Stuart Jones & Co.
(Chartered accountants),
3 New Road, Kendal, Cumbria.
April 24.

executions in North America. [Robert Harris] was also allowed to have the last word.

It is bad enough that poor old Canada has become a forgotten land in the minds of its British cousins. However, to see *The Times*, particularly given its own historic connections with Canada, link the country to the wretched experiences of the United States saddens me. Canada ridged itself of the barbarity of capital punishment in 1976.

Yours faithfully,
MARK HESLINE,
3 Park Mansions,
46 Howards Lane, SW15.

From Mr George Reith
Sir, "Revenge by the mob", you call it. I regard such a phrase as arrogant impudence.

In other contexts the "mob" becomes the "electorate" or "customers". Your ignorance on the fundamental politico-economic basis of law is appalling.

Yours etc.,
GEORGE REITH,
4 Bridgegate, Lugton,
Dumfries, Midlothian.

Elgin Marbles

From Professor Geoffrey Broadbent
Sir, Jill Paton Walsh (letter, April 13) suggests that a perfect set of replicas of the Elgin Marbles be made and displayed half and half in Athens and London. Such is the art of replicating these days that few would know the difference.

There is a hospital in Florence which specialises in treatment of the "Stendhal syndrome" by which tourists, often Japanese, swoon in direct confrontation with the great works they have come to see.

Not long ago Umberto Eco analysed the difference between original works of art, replicas and forgeries. When I asked him if there were different "Stendhal" rates between Michelangelo's real David in the Academia and the 19th-century copy outside the Palazzo Vecchio he replied: "It's about the same."

If a replica can move art-lovers so profoundly, does the absence of the real thing matter?

Yours etc.,
G. BROADBENT,
11 Hereford Road,
Southsea, Hampshire.

see. The looming presence of the Tower of London would serve as an appropriate deterrent to those European officials who fail to tell the difference between a genuine single market and an artificial federalism.

In exchange for the occupation of Canary Wharf, the government could set the seal on the British presidency by granting extra-territorial status to the area, thus providing for a truly permanent European presence in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN PALESON,
22 rue de la Loi,
B-1040 Brussels.
April 22.

Population trends an explosive issue

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, On population growth there is worse news and better news than Nigel Hawkes proposes ("Is it standing room only?", April 23). The annual increase will not start to fall much before 2010. The decline in fertility rates has itself declined in recent years, causing the year 2100 projection to be revised from 11.3 billion people to 11.6 billion — more than "another United States".

From 1950 to 1984 there was a 2.0-fold increase in world grain output, raising per-capita consumption by more than one third. But from 1985 to 1991 there has been far less annual increase even though the period has seen the world's farmers investing billions of dollars to expand harvests at a time of rising grain prices. During these seven years world population has increased by almost 13 per cent (600 million people) but grain output per person has declined by nearly 7 per cent.

As for the better news, we could reduce the eventual global total by at least two billion people simply by meeting the needs of some 300 million women in developing countries who apparently possess motivation for family planning but lack birth-control facilities.

Overall family-planning needs will increase as more enter the reproductive years, and the contribution of the developed nations, which now assign little more than 1 per cent of foreign aid to population issues, will have to expand seven times by 2000.

Thailand has shown what can be achieved. It has reduced family size from more than six children in 1969 to two today, i.e., to replacement rate. There is similar scope in a host of countries.

Yours truly,
NORMAN MYERS (Consultant in environmental development),
Upper Meadow, Old Road,
Headington, Oxford.
April 23.

From Mr Andrew Bradford
Sir, Population growth in the developed world was achieved with heavy dependence on the undeveloped world. Similar growth there has no such prop.

As a country with a high but stable population we consume many times more of Earth's finite resources than individuals from the undeveloped countries.

The fact that child benefit is paid on each child is symbolic to the rest of the world that we have not even begun to address the problem. I suggest we restrict benefit to the first two children of each mother (not each marriage) as a preliminary step.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BRADFORD,
Kincardine, Kincardine O'Neil,
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.
April 23.

Trappings of English

From Mrs S. J. Kovler

Sir, Mr Adler (letter, April 23) describes some of the vagaries of the English language. Last week I had to explain to my Israeli daughter-in-law that my baby grandson has learned to sit up, not to sit down.

Yours sincerely,
S. J. KOVLER,
23 The Rise,
Edgware, Middlesex.
April 23.

From Mrs Jane Parsons
Sir, My daughters aged four and six every day hear their mother's meal-time instruction to "sit down", followed seconds later by "and for heaven's sake, sit up".

Yours faithfully,
JANE PARSONS,
Southfields, Long Crendon Road,
Thame, Oxfordshire.
April 23.

From Mr W. E. Matthews
Sir, Having explained to French visitors that we cut down diseased trees, they were puzzled when we told them that we then cut them up.

Yours faithfully,
W. E. MATTHEWS
(Managing Director),
Southern Tree Surgeons Ltd.,
Crawley Down, West Sussex.
April 24.

From Mr Dominic E. Walsh
Sir, A pair of gloves I can cope with; but do we really need our trousers, shorts, knickers and scissors to come in pairs?

Yours faithfully,
D. WALSH,
Kelvin, Camden Road,
Carshalton, Surrey.
April 23.

From Mr Michael P. Walters
Sir, Sometimes apparently synonymous expressions have opposite meanings, e.g., "out of this world" and "like nothing on earth".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL P. WALTERS,
5 Cambrian Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
April 23.

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Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

OBITUARIES

JULIAN AMYES

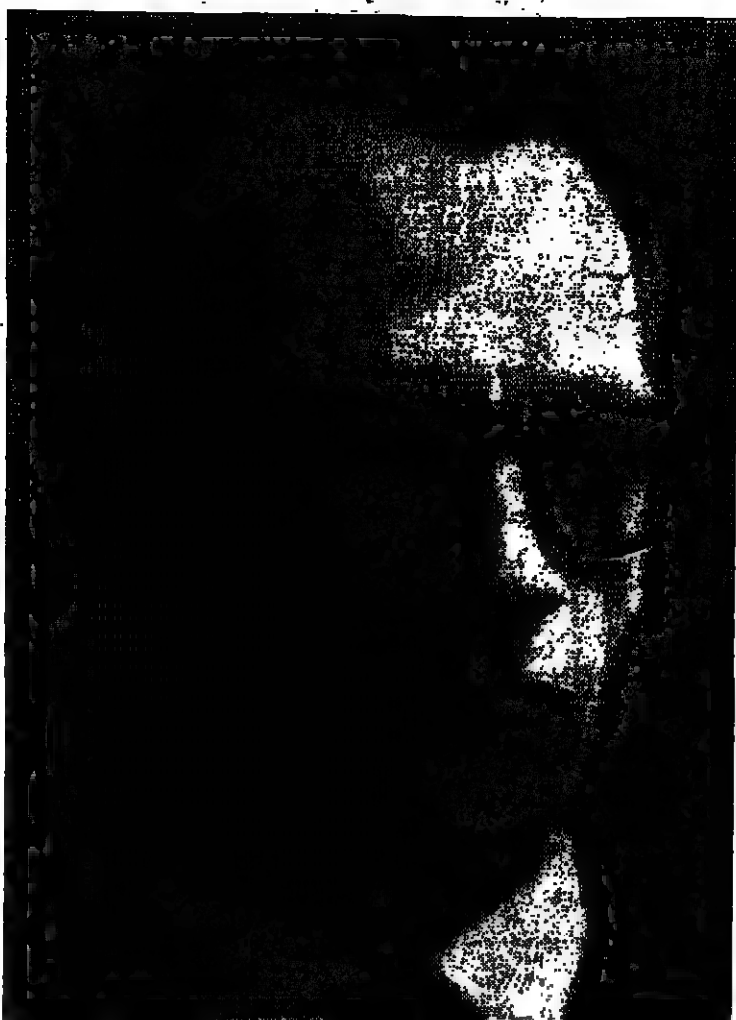
Julian Amyes, television drama director, died yesterday aged 74. He was born on August 9, 1917.

THE work of Julian Amyes was always highly professional, and in technical terms he was a true perfectionist. He was also a kind and quiet man, and in the words of one of his former colleagues at the BBC "He was the nicest man I ever worked with, and his kindness and good humour may be two of the reasons why he isn't remembered as well as he deserved to be."

Another reason must be his concern for drama that was mainstream rather than provocative and revolutionary, and he was never associated with the school of the Angry Young Men. He directed television productions of plays by Terence Rattigan, Edward Albee, and Christopher Fry, and worked on adaptations of classic English novels, including *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Jane Eyre*. "That's the way I am," he admitted. "You can't change yourself to order, and the things you like are the things you do best. What I've enjoyed most of all are classical series. I just can't help it." Which explains why, at a time of "revolutionary" drama, both in the theatre and in television, Julian Amyes and his oeuvre have tended to be ignored.

He was born in Cambridge, the son of a schoolmaster, and it was in Cambridge that he went to school and later to university. He originally chose classics as the subject of his degree but he soon changed his mind and preferred English, a decision which fairly reflected his passion for the written and spoken word. It was at Cambridge that he first developed his practical interest in English drama, becoming president of the University Mummings, a society which was alone in allowing female undergraduates to become members.

His close relationship with drama in all its forms continued until his death, and in the last years of his life he could often be seen in his wheelchair at the back of the Lyttelton and Olivier theatres.



He graduated in 1939, a few weeks before the outbreak of the second world war, at the age of 22. Because of his poor sight he was graded C3 at his army medical examination, and his conscription was postponed. This gave him the opportunity to work professionally in the theatre, for a weekly repertory company based at Frinton-on-Sea, where his earliest appearances included *Pygmalion* and Robert Morley's *Goodness, How Sad*. He later reflected: "By this time I knew that

my life would centre on drama, and I assumed it would always be in the theatre, because I loved playing to a live audience. Despite all my years in television I could never give it up altogether."

He was eventually conscripted into the army at the age of 24 — "They must have been seriously short of recruits" — and in 1942 he passed his course at an officer cadet training unit, and became a second lieutenant. He served in the Middle East from Tobruk to Palestine and

the Lebanon, and had become a temporary major before his demobilisation in 1946, when he happily returned to the theatre as an actor, playing at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon, and for the Birmingham Repertory Company. "I always seemed to be cast as old men, like Duncan in *Macbeth*."

By 1951 he had also developed a keen interest in television drama which in those days of its infancy was, like the theatre, a live medium. He applied to attend a trainee directors' course at the BBC. He was accepted, his course was successful, and he was offered a five-year contract with the BBC drama department. So began a career in television which lasted until 1991.

The early 1950s were an exciting pioneer period for BBC television drama, with Michael Barry as the head of the department and Donald Wilson — who wrote the scripts for *The Forsyte Saga* — as the script supervisor. Julian Amyes's first television assignment was Andrew Cruickshank's *The Prisoner* and his later work included many original productions whose scripts were written for television. Among these was the series *The Course of Justice*, a dramatisation by Duncan Ross of various court procedures, from those of the local magistrate to the High Court. This was described by one television critic as: "The most realistic series I have ever seen."

In 1952 Amyes directed the thriller *Dial M for Murder* by Frederick Knott, which later became a success on the West End stage and was made into a feature film. Another of his assignments was *The Three Hostages*, an adaptation by Nigel Kneale of the novel by John Buchan.

His first BBC contract ended in 1956 and he spent most of the next two years in feature films. He worked on Michael Caine's first film, *A Hill in Korea*, and then on *Miracle in Soho*, which was written and produced by Emeric Pressburger. This was not a particularly happy time for Julian Amyes. He felt that the film business did not

really suit him and he seemed to have to spend far too much of his time reading and rejecting bad scripts. For him the atmosphere of television was an altogether happier one where he felt he had much greater creative freedom.

He returned to television, to Granada for two years, and then went back briefly to the BBC where he directed Donald Wilson's series *No Wreath for the General*. In 1963 Granada appointed him as its head of programmes in Manchester and he stayed with the company until he was 60. The 1960s were a golden age for Granada, led by Sidney Bernstein and Denis Forman. *Coronation Street* began in 1960 and *World in Action* in 1963. Denis Mitchell and Norman Swallow headed a team of documentary makers, and Philip Mackie wrote a six-part drama series, *The Cascares*, about the struggle for power in Rome during the first century AD.

Julian Amyes made no productions himself, but he will always be remembered as the quiet man behind the scenes. His views and advice were highly respected, and as a natural diplomat he helped to resolve several potential disputes. This was one of the reasons why he moved away from the making of programmes to areas of administration and labour relations, working for a time on Granada's pension fund. He found an affinity with that kind of work he seemed to get on with all sides, and many of Granada's staff had a lot to thank him for.

At the age of 60 he left Granada, and for the rest of his life worked as a freelance director, for the BBC on adaptations of classics, and *The Lady's Not for Burning* for Yorkshire Television. He also directed episodes of *Rumpole of the Bailey* for Thames Television. Amyes continued to be deeply interested in the theatre, and he directed a West End production of *The Doctor's Dilemma* in which Lewis Casson made one of his last stage appearances.

He leaves a widow, a son and daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

Irvine Gray



MAY 1, as Major Irvine Gray's immediate superior from June 1942 to August 1944, add to your obituary (April 15). During these two years Irvine and Captain (as he then was) Maurice Oldfield dealt with the questioning of political internees and enemy agents on behalf of the Defence Security Office (DSO), Syria, a counter-intelligence organisation which had responsibilities in both Syria and the Lebanon.

We were fortunate that in the Lyttelton/de Gaulle agreement we had a clear political directive. Irvine's co-operation with our Free French counterparts, in whom most of the executive civilian control was vested, meant that during those two years the DSO policy of no executions and humane internment could achieve the civilian peace that the fighting forces in the Eastern Mediterranean needed in this vital area with its long frontier with neutral Turkey.

A short précis of these years, ending in the Normandy landings in which DSO, Syria, played an important deception role, was communicated for publication in 1989 in the authorised history of the Intelligence Corps but which, for security reasons, has not yet been published. Now would be the time, before more of those who can speak or write from personal experience have passed on.

I cannot remember during those two years Irvine or, except in very special circumstances, any of the staff walking or travelling armed in the cities or countryside of Syria and the Lebanon. So far as Irvine was concerned his integrity made such protection unnecessary.

Monty Trethowan

Patrick Fitzgerald

PATRICK Fitzgerald (obituary, April 18) was a colleague of 14 years at the Australian National University, remarkable in that he had no university degree (until, almost at retirement, he earned a DLitt for his published work); and he possessed an unrestrained sense of humour.

He displayed this when, because of his support of the Bandung conference in Indonesia, the then prime minister Robert Menzies called him a "meddling professor"; and when the members of the parliament, criticising the work carried out in the national university, called his biography of a high class whore, and his book *Barbarian Beds* a piece of pornography.

Patrick was vastly amused; and he took a subtle revenge by a solemn article, published by the *Canberra Times*, which described the excavation of an extensive Aboriginal

settlement on the site of the federal capital, and identified some necessary domestic areas with modern public sites, including parliament.

He followed up this Swiftian satire when the Australian Capital Territory adopted new motor car registration letters, all beginning with a capital "Y", by asking in a letter to the editor "Who would have the number plate YAH OOOO?"

One always thought of Patrick in association with Sarah, an elegant woman who was an accomplished "diplomatic" wife and hostess, but who did not in the least mind roughing it in a shack on the New South Wales coast, cooking over a camp fire or, later, running a stall in the Portobello Road.

Patrick's distinguished career owed a good deal to Sarah, who had shared his latter years in China, including a siege, and who thereafter organised a household in which Patrick could write his books.

Professor F. J. West

Günther Zuntz

AS A colleague both of Günther Zuntz (obituary, April 11) and Otto Skutsch at Manchester University, I could not fail to notice one respect in which the two outstanding classicists differed widely.

Zuntz was convinced that his English was flawless and was quick to pounce on native speakers and correct their imagined infidelities. I remember vividly a Plautus seminar run by Professor George Kerfer, past president of the Classical Association and at-

tended by (inter alios) Professor John Herington and myself. Time and again our attempts at translating the Greek failed to satisfy the exacting Zuntzian standards of idiomatic English.

My family one summer rented Zuntz's house at Chingley and were provided with a closely-typed sheet of instructions of Spindian impenetrability. Would I had kept it! Those scholars who were not deterred by the professor's abrasiveness derived much benefit from his well stocked mind and his generosity especially to young scholars.

H. H. Hurlley

April 27 ON THIS DAY 1951

The style is unmistakably that of Peter Fleming, a regular contributor to the *fourth* leader, and never at a loss when it came to the lighter side of service life.

PLUCKY LITTLE BLUELAND

To week-end holidaymakers they are objects of curiosity, perhaps of compassion. What are they up to, those little gaggles of khaki figures deployed inconspicuously in the Sunday morning sunshine? What impels them to climb up that steep hill, trailing their mackintoshes and map-cases behind them? What is it, when they have reached the summit, that they scan so earnestly through their binoculars? What wild surmise agitates the shooting sticks with which these stout Cornices point out to each other who can say what characteristics of the panorama before them? The explanation of their mysterious behaviour is not unduly complex. These homunculi are on the sky-line are officers of the Territorial Army, engaged upon a TEWT.

A TEWT, though it sounds both plaintive and puny, is in some respects a most elaborate affair. It means tactical exercise without troops, and is not to be confused with a JEW, which signifies to our brave lads limbering up for Burma on the arid plains of Central India, a jungle exercise without trees. Its designation suggests that it is a pis aller, but in fact there is no such thing in the army glossary as a TE, and it is now generally understood that all tactical exercises are carried out without troops.

But there are, of course, plenty of imaginary troops. The vast majority are invariably hostile, but oddly enough these scarcely give the week-end tactician a moment's

uneasiness. As he gazes through his field-glasses at cows fording the brook which for the purpose of this exercise represents a river 600 yards across, he is not cowed by the thought of the Redland hordes poised for aggression on the farther bank.

The gallant defenders of BlueLand are, except in the matter of mobile bath units, inferior to their adversaries at every point. Unfortunately, he is expected to know a good deal about these BlueLanders, for it is not — for the purposes of this exercise — commanding the 100th Infantry Brigade of the 88th BlueLand Division?

The tactician and his colleagues must find the right dispositions to meet as best they can the headlong onslaught of the Redlanders. They must provide these notional warriors with killing-grounds, fields of fire and a water supply; and at the end of the morning, be prepared to defend the positions they have selected against the criticisms of the Directing Staff. It is a delicate task, and many an officer, scratching his rather elderly head trying to remember the proportion of smoke bombs to high explosive in a modern mortar section, is tempted by the unworthy impulse to follow the cows across that vast imaginary river and join with the Redland army where there is plenty of everything and they do not seem to worry about the precise site of the regimental aid post.

At last the ordeal is over, and all who attended the TEWT — even those who invariably disagreed with their syndicate and insisted on putting in a minority report — are now united by a common bond. All agree that the tactical solution proffered by the Directing Staff exhibits in their superior officers that lack of enterprise, of imagination and indeed of a grasp of the elementary principles of warfare which has long been the curse of the British army.

THE RIGHT REV CECIL J. PATTERSON

The Right Rev Cecil J. Patterson, CMG, CBE, Archbishop of West Africa, 1961-69, died on April 11 aged 84. He was born on January 9, 1908.

SOME ten weeks before his death the Right Rev Cecil J. Patterson, or "Bishop Pat" as he was generally known, celebrated in his parish church at Richmond, Surrey, the 50th anniversary of his consecration as a bishop. Nigerians from various parts of the country converged to join the regular congregation in honouring the spiritual leadership given by this most self-deprecating of men during the turbulent formative years of Africa's youngest, newly independent nation.

A Londoner, Cecil John Patterson was educated at St Paul's School. He read classics and history at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1931 to a curacy in Kingsbury. After three years he offered his service to the Church Missionary Society, in which other members of his family were already working overseas, and was posted to the diocese on the Niger. There he was moved rapidly from one pastoral vacancy to another, and it says much for his amenable buoyancy that he survived and profited from this rough and ready initiation.

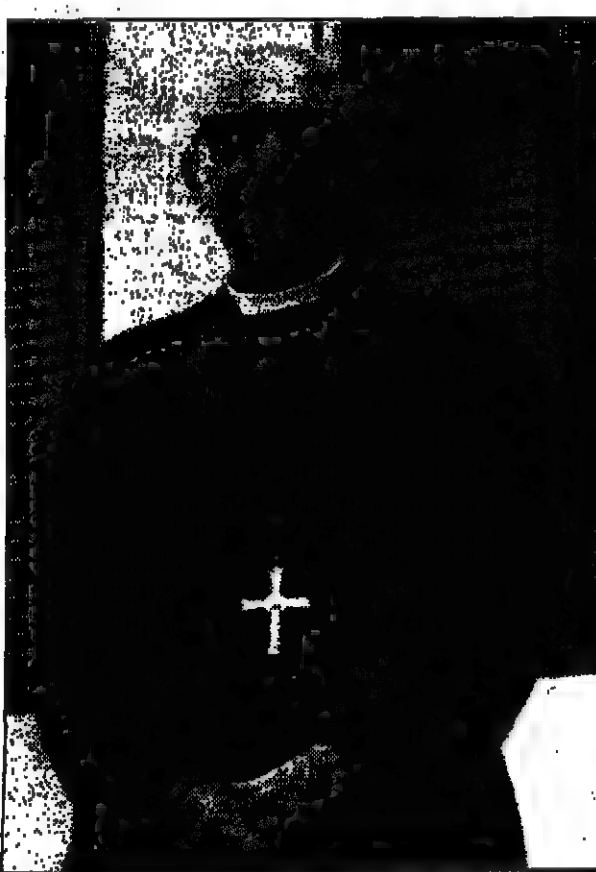
While in the Awka district he was in contact with the church union committee of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, which in 1937 issued a

draft basis for a union of Anglicans, Methodists and Presbyterians, modelled on the South India scheme. He continued to work tirelessly with those who were seeking the unity of the Nigerian churches, and four years after becoming Archbishop of West Africa, was confidently expecting the scheme to go through but it foundered on a dispute over property.

In 1939 Patterson was appointed to the Dennis Memorial Grammar School in Onitsha, where his natural simplicity and his prowess on the cricket field — he kept wicket for Nigeria for several seasons — won him many friends. Though he remained on the staff for only 18 months, his association with the school lasted for several generations.

It was becoming a matter of urgency for the east diocese on the Niger to take the first steps towards sub-division and in 1942, only ten years after becoming a priest, Patterson was consecrated as assistant bishop in charge of the Delta Pastorate Church, an almost entirely indigenous church of the sort that Henry Venn had promoted in the nineteenth century.

After barely four years, however, he succeeded Bishop Lasbrey as Bishop on the Niger and moved back to Onitsha. The Church of Nigeria was growing with the speed of a mass movement. Five years after he left it, the Delta archdiocese became a separate diocese. Owerri followed in 1961 and Benin



soon after. Every town was competing with its rivals to build a larger church in the hope that it might be chosen as the next diocesan seat or that it might at least surpass the one being built by the Roman Catholics. Sometimes the opulence of the design exceeded the quality of the construction. At the consecra-

tion of one such church — so the story goes — Patterson approached the west door, beat upon it with his crozier, and at the third stroke, a rose window above fell in upon the congregation.

His own cathedral at Onitsha, in which he took great personal interest, was completed more gradually.

One of the loveliest and most original churches in Africa, it makes a fitting memorial to Patterson's devotion to the diocese. One of his first acts as diocesan was to introduce an early morning celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays in addition to the one that followed Morning Prayer.

His incessant travels brought him into touch with all walks of life. To anyone invited to dine with the bishop it was always a matter of speculation as to whether one's fellow guest might be a leading businessman, a general or a former house-boy, or all three together. Patterson cared little for protocol and preferred to reach decisions informally through the agreement of a few key people.

His election in 1961 to the Archbishopric of West Africa, while remaining in charge of his own diocese, added more travel and greater responsibilities, but Patterson made light of this. When expelled for a time from Ghana he replied to a sympathiser, saying that he thought it possible that Nkrumah had no hand in it and that, unlike St Paul, he was given a first class seat in an aeroplane and no stones were thrown.

The civil war in Nigeria was to affect his ministry much more seriously. When the Eastern Region seceded from the federation in 1967 Patterson was on leave and unable to return for six months. He was determined not to take sides in what could too easily be interpreted as a war of religion. But he under-

stood the fears of the Christian South and, at the outbreak of war, went with the Chief Justice of Biafra, Sir Louis Mbanefo, to explain these to Archbishop Ramsey, who thereafter supported the opposition to Britain's supply of arms to the federal government. When Patterson eventually got back to his war-torn diocese his reception was, understandably, cool at first, and this pained him greatly. Yet in a surprisingly short time his reconciling care for all parties won respect and the old warmth was restored.

At the end of 1969 Patterson decided to make way for an African successor to the archbishopric, two years before he was due to retire. Britain was waking up to the problems faced by its ethnic minorities and their place in society. The British churches were for the first time facing the question of their relation to the other great faiths within the one realm. At the instigation of a study group of the British Council of Churches, Patterson was appointed as the archbishops' representative for community relations, and for the next few years he worked unobtrusively and effectively to raise the awareness of bishops and clergy towards these issues.

For 20 more years he lived quietly in retirement, entertaining countless friends at his home in Kew. A former house-boy of his, now a senior civil servant, was his guest for the last night of his life and with him when he had his final stroke.

Henry Whyte

Christian duty to spread the good news, lovingly

One thing is certain about the current Decade of Evangelism. It is controversial. The first area of controversy is whether the Decade of Evangelism should be happening at all. Some give it unqualified support while others say that what is needed is a decade of renewal in which Christians can rediscover their faith and be strengthened in it. The word evangelism should be dropped because it is unhelpful.

There is a danger of polarisation here. However, it is not a case of either/or but both/and. Emil Brunner's words are relevant that "the church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning". So the renewal of the church means that it will be revitalised in its evangelistic task as well as in other ways. At the same time all the evangelism in the world will be largely ineffective if the church is not also renewed in other aspects of its life. New Christians need the warmth of welcoming churches just as a live coal needs others to keep on burning.

What is evangelism? For some the immediate answer is Billy Graham, mass rallies and earnest people with

large Bibles. Such an answer may be understandable but it illustrates the need for fresh thinking about the subject. The word itself is widely misunderstood and one reason is that particular methods are often confused with its primary meaning. Even in the churches there are those who are unaware that evangelism means the announcement of good news. The content of this good news, the gospel, is about Jesus Christ and what He has done, particularly through His sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection.

This is the message of the apostles and it is the church's joyful task to make it known in every generation. We are in fact in the 197th decade of evangelism. However, it is because some parts of the Christian church have become so inward looking that the calling of a special Decade of Evangelism is now so timely. The statistics show unmistakably that while the churches in Western Europe have been in long-term overall decline those in many other parts of the world are growing with great vigour. In such growing churches the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed is regarded

as a normal and natural part of the life of the Christian community. We have much to learn from them.

As the Decade of Evangelism continues, another matter of controversy will be the question whether Christians should avoid anything and everything which may disturb other people. Concerns have already been expressed about insensitive approaches and the targeting of particular groups of people.

Those who emphasise the Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples can sometimes forget the second Great Commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself. Jesus Himself brought both together and as He went around announcing the good news of the kingdom of God He did so with love and sensitivity. He was flexible in His approach, responded to different people according to their particular needs and never badgered those who did not want to listen to Him or receive what He had to give.

However that is only one side of the coin. The other is that Jesus had some very direct and startling things to say about Himself. He claimed to

be and to bring a new revelation of God of the utmost importance. He issued a clear call and sometimes an uncompromising challenge to follow Him. The result was that while some accepted His teaching and believed in Him others did not and there were varying responses to Him. The apostles met with similar differing responses as they made known the message of Christ and sometimes much hostility.

The question arises: is it actually possible for Christians to make known their message without the possibility that it may disturb others? The answer is no but that is never an excuse for insensitive or inappropriate evangelism. Unloving evangelism that shows little respect for others is always a contradiction in terms and Christians have much to repent of in this area. However, the remedy for past mistakes is not to try to avoid everything that might possibly upset others. Such a policy is one which says, in effect, that there is nothing distinctive about the Christian message.

There is a lot of hard work to be done by Christians in these and other areas of controversy. Such

work will require fresh study of the Scriptures and much prayerful reflection which is then turned into action.

There are some signs that this process is slowly gathering momentum. It is important that it should do so and at local as well as at national level. For as Kenneth Latourette writes in his book *The First Five Centuries*: "The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession or made it a major part of their occupation, but men and women who carried on their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those they met in this natural fashion".

If an increasing number of Christians grasp the possibilities of this Decade of Evangelism and are ready to grapple humbly and courageously with its inherent tensions then the closing years of this century could be a time of good news in this land in more ways than one.

The writer is Vicar of St Paul's, Kingston Hill and an associate church growth teacher with the Bible Society.

Civil trial
revives
Lockerbie
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THE TIMES BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 27 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MAN OF THE WEEK

Purves puts a knight in check

Given Sir Jeremy Purves's brilliant strategic mind — he is one of the most able chess players in Britain — he is certain to have scrutinised the psychological make-up of his opponent in the Battle of Midland. Like two kings eyeing each other across a board, with Willie Purves, perhaps, and Sir Jeremy Ivory, the decision as to whether the game will begin is in Sir Jeremy's court.

His hesitation about countering Hongkong Bank's bid is possibly caused by the thought of Purves in full flight. For while Sir Jeremy was studying classics at Oxford, Purves was giving vent to his aggression within the more robust environs of the RAF. At 19, he won the DSO for defending a Korean hill with a handful of men.

Physically large, Purves, 60, likes, and is used to, getting his own way. Although colleagues loyally insist that he is approachable, that his door is always open, he is



Purves: plays to win not someone to be approached lightly. Midland's directors, after recent meetings, have been expressing their astonishment at the way none of Purves's colleagues ever utters a word.

Not known to defer to subordinates, Purves's hierarchical view of the world means he has high regard for those he deems his seniors. He listens to Sir Peter Walters, since he once ran a group bigger than his bank. But even Sir Peter would be intimidated if such respect was not given.

Mr Purves is too much of a dour, parsimonious Scot ever to be an empire builder, but he always plays to win. Whereas Sir Jeremy will be conscious of a need to play well within the rules, Purves's only Achilles heel will be a Scottish reluctance to over-pay.

Meanwhile, for those who argue that Purves would be more evenly matched against Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, that might hold only until Pitman stares into Purves's eyes. Pitman has not yet put his finger on a trigger. Purves has already killed.

CAROL LEONARD

Bonn rejects US attack at G7 meeting

Germany keeps hard line on monetary policy

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT, IN WASHINGTON

GERMANY, angered by American attacks on its economic policies, hit back at the Group of Seven meeting here yesterday, removing any thoughts that it might relax its monetary stance to help foster more vigorous world growth.

Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, whose tight monetary rein has provoked criticism from both sides of the Atlantic that he is stifling growth in Germany and the rest of the European Community, was unyielding. The Bundesbank, he said, had "no scope for a cut in interest rates".

He vigorously defended Germany's growth record, despite the tough monetary squeeze it has put in place.

Among the leading economies, Germany had continued to perform well, with capacity usage in its industry still above that in America and other countries, he said.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, said Germany had done its best to boost growth, while its trading partners had enjoyed many of the benefits from its large-scale transfers to eastern Germany. Furthermore, there was no recession in Germany, he said, recalling the first-quarter data released last week, which showed the economy growing 1 per cent in the latest quarter.

Herr Waigel rejected criticism from the Bush administration and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that called for Germany to curb its budget deficit. Bonn was ad-

ressing the question, he said, and would impose a freeze on public expenditure from next month.

He poured scorn on American charges of fiscal laxity, saying he did not intend to be put in the dock. Much of the expenditure increase caused by unification did not go on social transfers, but represented long-term investment.

Herr Waigel said Germany, unlike some other nations, was largely able to finance its budget deficit out of savings. He also dismissed suggestions that German public sector deficits are being understated, adding that these still only amounted to about 5 per cent of GDP, even if the postal service, state railway and east German privatisation costs were included.

Germany, he said, was fully capable of meeting the ERM economic convergence criteria as far as public sector borrowing was concerned.

The remarks from Herr Waigel and Dr Schlesinger were made before the main meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from G7, which comprises Germany, America, Japan, Britain, France, Canada and Italy. Dr Schlesinger drew attention to the different focus on interest rates in Germany compared to elsewhere.

Germany, whose key official lending rates are at a post-war high, enjoys lower long-term interest rates than America. Dr Schlesinger said short-term interest rates were higher, but that the importance in Germany of fixed interest rates was greater than in other countries.

Herr Waigel said Germany had done what was asked of it at the last G7 meeting with regard to burden-sharing in the world economy. He welcomed the move by other countries to join in efforts to support economic transition in eastern Europe, as Germany could not, and did not want to, do more on its own.

Canada will not bail out O&Y

BY OUR CITY STAFF

OLYMPIA & York, the troubled Toronto property company that is developing Canary Wharf in London, will not be saved by the Canadian government, Donald Mazankowski, Canada's finance minister, told news agencies at the weekend: "I can assure you we will not be involved in a bail-out."

The Toronto Star newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, said O&Y wants loan guarantees of C\$50 million (£24 million) each from the governments of Canada and Ontario. Bob Rae, Ontario's premier, declined to discuss specifics concerning the Toronto Star story. However, in reference to the company's development in New York, London and Toronto, and its stakes in natural resource companies, he said: "The assets are there. Their future is very important to the province of Ontario."

Bankers to O&Y said they expect to lend the group some cash, but are still deeply worried over the company's long-term prospects. O&Y's solvency appears to depend on the banks' willingness to lend an additional US\$250 million in the next 90 days. One banker said that while the banks had made proposals involving some form of short-term facility, they had not yet agreed to lend the amount asked for nor for the period it requested.

The banks said they would like more information on the incentives O&Y offered to attract potential tenants to Canary Wharf. The unknown extent of the incentives could raise "black holes" in O&Y's financial position, bankers said. One lender said banks were concerned about "dribbling cash out to O&Y without knowing where it will end".

German strikes, page 7
Comment, page 17

Consumers call for gas enquiry

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Gas Consumers Council has called for an immediate government enquiry into the industry.

The council fears that plans to introduce competition may lead to a worse deal for many consumers.

James Cooper, the chairman of the Gas Consumers Council, said on Friday, in a letter to Michael Heseltine, the president of the Board of Trade, that he was "deeply concerned" that the Office of Fair Trading had failed to calculate properly the effects of reforms.

The council's fears stem from last month's agreement that paved the way for rents to capture 60 per cent of

British Gas's firm industrial and commercial market by 1995. British Gas acceded to pressure from the Office of Fair Trading to facilitate increased competition after months of hard bargaining. Had the company refused, it would have faced a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Many of the details, including a new regime of transmission charges for the British Gas supply business and its rivals, have still to be settled. These are to be agreed by negotiation, without a formal study of the consequences, because a monopolies reference was averted.

The council is now alarmed

at the impact that market liberalisation may have on Britain's 17 million household gas-users. In the council's annual report, published today, Mr Cooper devotes the entire foreword to an examination of the impact of competition on gas prices.

He says: "It is wishful thinking for anyone to conclude that consumer gas prices will automatically be limited to 5 per cent below inflation. The cost of gas to British Gas will ultimately depend upon the development of demand in the United Kingdom and in Europe as a whole."

Discontent increases, page 6



Straight bat: Brian Baldock, group managing director of Guinness and a lifelong cricket fan, who is being appointed the chairman of the Lord's Taverners today (Michael Tate writes). Mr Baldock, 58, holding a bat signed by the members of the 1947 Test team and every senior county player in England that summer, will take over from Derek Ufton, the current chairman, on May 1. Mr Baldock, who will become deputy chairman of Guinness later this month, is looking forward to his two-year stint as chairman of the Taverners whose main aim is to raise funds to help handicapped and underprivileged children play sport.

Barclays chief to go at end of year

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

SIR John Quinton, chairman and chief executive of Barclays, has formally confirmed that he will retire from the bank at the end of the year.

Sir John, who underwent heart surgery two years ago, said that his intention to step down after his sixty-third birthday on December 21 had been planned for several months. "There has been no boardroom coup," he insisted.

Shareholders will be told formally of the boardroom changes at Thursday's annual meeting. Sir John is expected to say he is stepping down as chief executive shortly and as chairman by the end of the year. The annual meeting should also be told of his successors as chairman and chief executive.

Officially, the board has not yet been told of Sir John's intentions, nor has any announcement been made to the Stock Exchange.

A Barclays board meeting precedes Thursday's annual meeting. Andrew Buxton, currently managing director of Barclays Bank, is widely expected to be promoted.

Analysts said there were not unduly surprised at Sir John's announcement, adding that Barclays had not covered itself in glory in recent years. The bank's exposure to property in Britain and America, which includes loans to Heron, Olympia & York, Speyhawk and others, had seriously damaged the group's profitability.

Analysts added that even though Barclays had not yet made a formal announcement about the succession, they would not welcome the prospect of one person assuming the roles of chairman and chief executive when the bank's changes are finalised.

The Bank of England is known not to favour dual roles.

A possible candidate as chairman, assuming Mr Buxton becomes chief executive, is Sir Peter Middleton, a deputy chairman of the bank and formerly permanent secretary to the Treasury, who joined Barclays in 1991.

The City says that Barclays — though not alone — failed to read the recession, and that when the recession arrived, Barclays was not particularly good at managing it.

Companies rush to go public

BY OUR CITY STAFF

ASUMMER rush of London Stock Exchange flotations, now being finalised by merchant bankers in the wake of the Tory election victory, could soak up £5 billion from the investing public in the next four months.

Kenwood Appliances, the electrical goods group, and Taunton Cider, Britain's second largest cider maker, said yesterday they were headed for flotations this summer, both via an offer for sale.

They join GPA, the Irish aircraft leasing combine. The Daily Telegraph, TJ Hughes, the Liverpool discount stores group, and Industrial Control Services, the Essex-based electronic safety company, that are also on route to being listed.

Wellcome Trust, the 73.6 per cent controlling shareholder of Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group, has appointed lead managers for a July offering of part of its holding that will raise at least £4 billion from a spread of international investors.

GPA has a May 13 launch date planned for a \$3 billion float that involves an offer for sale of up to \$750 million of new shares at about \$21 each. The corporate takeover and stock market flotation scene was given new life after the general election, and after last week's £518 million share bid by TI Group for Dowty.

Timothy Parker, chief executive of Kenwood, who led a

£56 million management buyout from Thorn EMI in 1989, expects to make a public offering in the summer of shares valued at between £40 million and £50 million, thereby putting half of Kenwood in public ownership.

Taunton Cider, which was a £100 million management buyout from a consortium of brewers in May last year, is likely to have a market capitalisation of between £130 million and £150 million after a July flotation.

Neil Austin, head of new

issues in the corporate finance practice of KPMG Peat Marwick, believes that now the general election is out of the way, many more companies will push the flotation button.

In the first quarter of 1992, there were only 14 new issues (12 full listings, two USAs) compared with 19 new issues (of which 14 were full listings) in the first quarter of 1991.

He said: "By the last quarter of 1992, I believe we could all see a return to the levels of flotations of the late 1980s."

Spring of discontent strikes a memory

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

A METAL worker at a Mannesmann plant in the Ruhr valley calculated at the end of a strike in 1984 that he would need to work four-and-a-half years to recoup the money he lost during the strike.

Germany is again gripped by strike fever, and for millions of men and women who stay at home today the economics of industrial action are similar, if not worse. Only the scale is larger. The public sector strike began over the weekend, when union members voted by 88.9 per cent in favour of strike. Already, at Hamburg airport 20 tonnes of air mail have piled up. Even in the theatres "an iron curtain has settled down", according to one activist.

There will be no winners. The government negotiators are offering a maximum 4.8 per cent pay rise, compared



With 5.4 per cent recommended by an arbitrator. For many public sector workers the difference amounts to as little as DM20 a month.

With the benefit of distance and ignorance, one can easily dismiss these strikes as a sign that Germany is about to collapse into the type of labour relations witnessed in Britain during the seventies. Some British commentators

poor, but about distribution of wealth between the East and the West. The strikes are the most overt sign yet that the economics of German unity are not working.

This year, the transfers from the West to the East will come to DM180 billion, financed by a dangerous cocktail of higher borrowing and higher taxes. Western German workers have suffered cuts in real incomes, made worse by the rise in inflation that resulted from tax increases and extra demand caused by unification. None of that was their fault.

The only way out is for public borrowing to remain high and to rise. This makes economic sense from a domestic point of view. But this also means that interest rates must remain high probably for another year, if not longer.

German strikes, page 7

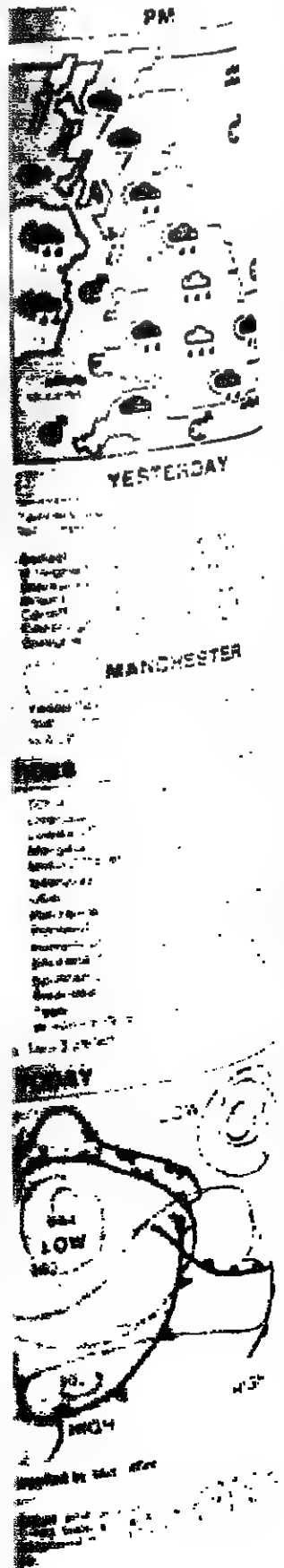
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CHANGE ON WEEK	
THE POUND	
US dollar	1.7715 (+0.0245)
German mark	2.9256 (+0.0125)
Exchange index	92.3 (+0.7)
Bank of England official base (4pm)	
STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 share	2072.5 (+13.3)
FT-SE 100	2843.0 (+4.4)
New York Dow Jones	3324.46 (-42.04)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	17542.45 (-417.31)



SMALLER COMPANIES

Kingston fuelled by Orcol takeover

THE black cloud that still hangs over oil and gas has failed to halt a recovery in the shares of Kingston Oil & Gas, a London-listed company with substantial American interests. The shares have rallied from 64p in February to 82p. Although they still trade at a discount to a 1990 rights issue price of 110p, institutional investors are again showing interest.

The reason is that the company's £4.5 million acquisition of Orcol Fuels, a UK-based waste fuel reclamation business, is beginning to bear fruit. Orcol, the acquisition of which was funded by the rights issue, contributed just over half of last year's profits. At £1.19 million, those were more than double 1990's £501,399. Orcol has also given Kingston a valuable UK earnings base, with significant tax advantages.

Kingston could afford to increase its total dividend from 1.56p to 2.5p, with a 1.5p final. That made it something of a rarity in a sector more used to dividends being cut or passed altogether. The company ended the year with cash in the bank and said strong cash flow this year would keep the balance sheet strong.

Ray Chambers, chairman, emphasises that Kingston's record in America, a graveyard for the ambitions of so many London-listed companies, is good. Operations are confined to Ohio, a state the company knows well, and all gas produced is sold under long-term contracts with six customers. Kingston owns the pipeline and estimates that the scrap value of its wells and well-head equipment is about £2 a share.

Gas prices in America remain depressed but Mr Chambers believes they will recover as legislation comes into effect obliging power generators to reduce coal-based carbon emissions.

In Britain, Orcol has good prospects in a market that must grow as measures are taken to encourage the use of recycled oil to conserve energy and reduce pollution. Kingston claims competitive advantages over its two main UK rivals, BCS and Landstar, both owned by venture capital groups.

Further consolidation in a sector once dominated by small, family-run concerns seems inevitable, and Orcol is well placed to take advantage of opportunities.

MARTIN BARROW

Directors come under fire over pay rises

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY rises averaging more than twice inflation awarded to Britain's business leaders have been severely criticised by Roger Young, director-general of the British Institute of Management (BIM).

He called on directors of large companies to "take a long, hard look" at their remuneration after a BIM survey showed senior directors' rises averaged 9.3 per cent last year while managers and staff tightened their belts.

His attack was launched just before the Institute of Directors' annual convention, which takes place tomorrow at the Albert Hall in London.

Speeches from John Major, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, and others are expected to reflect the conference theme: power, performance and ethics.

Mr Young clearly believes an ethical review of senior directors' pay is overdue.

The BIM survey, published today, shows that directors of companies with annual sales exceeding £500 million received pay rises averaging 9.3 per cent during 1991.

Directors of smaller companies received much smaller rises. Managers' pay rises averaged 6.4 per cent, significantly below the average increase for the UK workforce last year of 8 per cent.

The BIM survey, conducted with the aid of Remuneration Economics, is one of Britain's most authoritative, covering 20,609 individuals in 340 companies together employing more than 2 million people.

Mr Young said: "This survey shows that managers are accepting the consequences of recession. They are not afraid to take the medicine of lower relative pay when necessary. Directors of large

companies should heed their example. They must be seen to be tightening their belts along with everyone else."

Mr Young gave a warning to senior directors to expect a backlash if they failed to change their behaviour.

He said: "They have benefited from the tax reductions of the last ten years and will have only themselves to blame if they are seen as greedy. The politics of envy will ensure that increases in taxation will greatly reduce their real earnings."

The BIM's alarm over excessive pay rises has been compounded by an analysis of the study's findings.

The authors said: "For the first time since the survey began 19 years ago, real earnings have significantly outpaced the growth in gross domestic product — by 2 per cent, while output slumped by 2.4 per cent."

The survey concluded that this would reduce employment or profits or push up prices, and affect future pay awards. Some pay experts argue that many pay awards were bound to be high last year because negotiators were trying to "catch up" with higher inflation in 1990.

More recent, but less detailed, data from the Confederation of British Industry and leading pay research groups have suggested that shopfloor settlements have now fallen to around the current level of inflation, as measured by the retail prices index, of 4 per cent.

The BIM breakdown of pay awards shows that the average director now earns £64,955, while the average manager earns £29,503. More than 40 per cent of the managers and directors surveyed earned more than £30,000. Nearly 60 per cent earned in excess of £50,000.

WHO GETS WHAT

Region	Managers' earnings	Rise	Directors' earnings	Rise
Inner London	£39,058	3.8%	£82,488	0.0%
Outer London	£23,441	8.5%	£27,719	3.5%
South East	£31,128	7.5%	£31,141	6.5%
South West	£20,154	4.5%	£29,472	-3.2%
East of England	£26,898	6.4%	£27,718	3.5%
East of Scotland	£23,468	7.7%	£30,883	5.0%
Yorkshire & Humber	£28,202	7.0%	£36,376	4.6%
W Midlands	£28,919	4.4%	£26,843	5.6%
North West	£25,750	7.3%	£29,808	8.2%
East Midlands	£24,480	5.4%	£29,121	5.9%
North	£24,391	7.2%	£20,744	14.1%



Smiling through: Carla Hills, US trade representative, conferring with Warren Lavorel, one of her team, before informal talks started in Japan yesterday

Trade talks agenda widened

TRADE ministers winding up a weekend of informal talks tried to give the stalled Uruguay round of world trade talks a gentle nudge forward, but steered clear of the most delicate issues.

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, and her counterparts from the EC, Japan and Canada met in Urubandai, north of Tokyo, from Friday to Sunday for talks centred largely on the Uruguay round.

The ministers told a press

conference they planned to intensify talks on a broader range of topics but added that they did not want to set a deadline for completion of the talks.

Kozo Watanabe, Japan's minister for international trade and industry, said: "The process is stalled in the final stage."

He added: "We need to reinvigorate the talks by continuing to talk in other areas than agriculture."

The Uruguay round, in

which the 108 members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade hope to liberalise markets, was due to end about 18 months ago. Trade negotiators said that they would intensify discussions on topics such as services, creating political momentum for the talks and shortening the time needed to conclude the round once an agreement on agriculture has been reached.

SCOTT MILLER

Reuter

New SE service for neglected shares

By RODNEY HOBSON

AN EXPERIMENT by the Stock Exchange to drum up interest in the least traded shares begins today. Company brokers for 120 stocks have been typing in financial details that will be available on all dealing screens. Their response is described by an exchange spokeswoman as "very positive". The new service is called the company bulletin board.

Each of the least traded stocks will be allotted one page on the Stock Exchange's Topic computer system in a bid to give market-makers the confidence to display the prices at which they are prepared to deal, just as they do with liquid stocks.

Company brokers will be responsible for supplying details, including the number of shares in issue, the latest after-tax profit figures and

the last dividend paid. The volume of trading over the past 12 months will be displayed together with details of the last ten trades, including the names of the market-makers who bought and sold.

The data will not reveal whether the market-makers traded for themselves or for a client, nor will it show which was the buyer and which the seller. The screen will show the last time that information was updated.

Market-makers will be able to display prices they are prepared to deal at and the maximum size of order they will handle, but must say whether the prices are firm or merely an indication. Where prices are displayed as firm, the market-maker is obliged to accept an order. Company brokers can help brokers to match up orders.

News Corp names executive

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE News Corporation, owner of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, has appointed Stanley K. Honey as executive vice-president from May 1. He will manage News Technology Group, a newly created division that will consolidate The News Corporation's activities in new media technologies.

Mr Honey is currently president and chief executive officer of California-based Etak Inc, that supplies digital map data. Etak's databases cover 75 per cent of the American population and all metropolitan areas in Germany, France and The Netherlands.

News Technology Group will include Etak Inc, News Datacom, which has developed technology in encryption and media access control, and The Times Network Systems, which develops CD-based electronic reference products.

Blame caution not the ERM for high rates

There is a widespread belief among journalists and politicians that sterling's membership of the ERM is holding interest rates in Britain at permanently higher levels than would have prevailed if similar money policies had been applied in similar economic circumstances outside the mechanism.

Those who make such claims are suggesting, in effect, that a "bureaucratic device" is managing to overwhelm "market forces" — and, even more remarkably, that the device working this trick is doing so without having to limit investors' freedom of action. It is inexcusable for City commentators to go along with such irrationality. Those who have any knowledge of the workings of free markets should know prices reflect the judgments of the players — virtually impossible to control, least of all by administrative black magic. Markets do sometimes get things wrong, but even when wrong, they are internally consistent, never irrational.

The interest rate in Britain is where it is because those who operate in the foreign exchanges believe such a rate is necessary to compensate for the devaluation risk perceived to be attached to sterling.

That risk could hardly be seen as less outside the system; nor, therefore, could the interest rate differential. But there is nothing permanent about the market's assessment. In the past 12 months, the differential between British and German interest rates has fallen 3 per cent — a reflection of investors gradually changing their minds about the size of risk involved in holding sterling. There is no more reason to believe the present differential will persist than there was to think the much bigger one 12 months ago would do so.

The main consideration is the condition of Britain's economy, compared with other European countries, the minor one is the speed with which investor perceptions will respond to any changes in relative fundamentals. For the most part, the indications seem rather encouraging.

Inflation, in particular, may provide some pleasant surprises. Already 4% below the German figure, a much wider differential may exist

by the end of this year. Not only are pay settlements here moderating more quickly than in Germany, but labour productivity is advancing at a much brisker pace.

The external accounts provide a similarly revealing differential between performances. While Germany is recording current account deficits (as a percentage of GNP) that are small and falling, despite a revival in internal demand, Britain is chalking up persistently large deficits, and doing so in the face of a significant recession.

Given, moreover, Britain's improvement in competitiveness (the result of the inflation differential), a further widening of the overseas trade disparity is likely to manifest itself in the months ahead.

The fiscal deficits tell an essentially parallel story. Britain's, post-recession, is not good, but Germany's, after its eastern spending and with the worst part of its recession ahead, looks even worse.

Public borrowing in the "demi-paradise" will probably fall in the next few years as economic recovery lifts tax revenues, while a newly installed (majority) government limits spending.

Delinquency is a more likely outcome in Germany, with tax revenues plunging in response to recession; while spending, uncontrollable in the context of a lame-duck administration, soars.

Investors are not unaware of these trends, but they are playing things cautiously. What the markets want to see is another six to 12 months of "virtuous" behaviour in Britain (and "fleckless" in Germany) before they lower interest rates in the former relative to the latter.

For those who think the fundamentals are in place, and will persist, the appropriate action is not to rail at the shortcomings of the ERM, but to invest in assets that will benefit from the interest rate transition when it eventually occurs. Long gilts are the obvious answer. They yield 9% per cent at present, but could be down to 8% per cent by year-end if our analysis is right, and to 7% per cent by end-1993.

ROGER NIGHTINGALE
Roger Nightingale & Associates

CAPITAL MARKETS

Chinese stock markets thrive on 'socialism'

THE "socialist way of trading securities" may sound contradictory, but in China's biggest and most pragmatic of the surviving communist states, it is a working reality.

In truth, the socialist way of trading securities is little other than the capitalist version with a few additional controls that would not be out of place in many southern European markets. Short selling, for example, is not allowed on the ground that it represents capitalist speculation.

This week sees the flotation of two new companies on the Shenzhen stock exchange, the newer and larger of the two Chinese markets. Hua Fa Electronics and Shenzhen Electronics bring the total number of Shenzhen stocks to 12, of which six are in the form of B shares and can be bought by foreigners. Eleven B shares are due to be listed by the end of the summer, with another 12 by the new year. The B share companies, selected by local authorities, are joint ventures, mostly managed from Hong Kong.

Western interest in the B share market is limited although several investment vehicles specialising in the Chinese market have been set up. The Chinese market is

one of the fastest growing in the Far East. The Shenzhen and Shanghai exchanges have a capitalisation of \$2 billion, the same size as that of Indonesia three years ago. Shenzhen is now the larger and more sophisticated of the two, boasting screen-based, matched-bargain trading.

Andrew Tong, an executive at Standard Chartered, who was responsible for drawing up the market's rule book, says the Chinese have taken enthusiastically to their new "socialist" capital markets.

But as in most emerging markets, a dangerous combination of over-enthusiasm among local investors and lack of liquidity has driven price/earnings ratios to unsustainable levels. In March, the market p/e in Shanghai reached 55, although multiples in B shares in Shenzhen have fallen back to about 15.

With economic liberals dominating the younger generation, the future of the market looks secure, says Mr Tong. The sheer size of the investor base and high savings ratios should ensure a steady supply of funds will be available to take up any new shares that come on to this nominally socialist market.

JONATHAN PRYNN

ICI expected to show first signs of recovery

SIR Denys Henderson, the chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, the multinational chemicals group that is still regarded by some as the bellwether of British industry, should confirm on Thursday that ICI's profits bottomed out last year and indicate a very tentative recovery.

The first quarter's pre-tax profits are expected to have advanced to £225 million, against £198 million last time, according to Alasdair Nisbet, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew.

Mr Nisbet's figures include an exceptional gain, of £15 million to £20 million, from the sale of the salt business. Market forecasts range from £190 million to £225 million.

ICI should report a resilient performance in its pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals operations, but trading in bulk chemicals is thought to have remained difficult.

TODAY

Interim: Associated British Foods (first quarter), Blemheim Group, Lyles (S).
Finals: Bortland International (fourth quarter), Dares Estates, How Group, Irish Life, Molyneux Holdings, Savills Group, Smith Oriental Investment Trust, Ingham, Sannah Rubber, S & U Stores, TSW-Television South West Holdings, Waterford Foods, Yule Catto & Co.

Economic statistics: Engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (February).

TOMORROW

Interim: Govett Strategic Investment Trust, Kleinwort High Income Trust (third quarter), Moran Holdings, Wharfedale.

Finals: Brown & Jackson, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Explara Holdings, Folkestone Group, Govett Oriental Investment Trust, Ingham, Sannah Rubber, S & U Stores, TSW-Television South West Holdings, Waterford Foods, Yule Catto & Co.
Economic statistics: CBI industrial trends survey (March).

WEDNESDAY

Bank of Scotland, which makes more than half of its money south of the border.



Price cutter: Graeme Seabrook, of Kwik Save, which is likely to report increased half-time profits

will continue to enjoy the benefit of last May's £194 million rights issue, but will be restricted by higher provisions for bad debts.

Kleinwort Benson is looking for full-year pre-tax profits of £140 million, compared with £134.1 million last time. Market forecasts range from between £130 million and £150 million.

Earnings per share are expected to slip to 6.2p from 7.6p, but an increased dividend of 4.4p compared with 4.1p last time is predicted.

Despite the recession in the property sector, UBS Phillips & Drew expects final pre-tax profits at Britton Estate, the property company that specialises in industrial property development and investment, to advance to about £26.5 million, against £23.6 million

last time. An improved dividend of 8p (7.1p) is forecast.

N Brown Group, the mail order company based in Manchester that specialises in such niche areas as selling clothes to older, outside women, is expected to report an increase in full-year profits.

County NatWest has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £15.5 million, compared with £14 million previously. Earnings per share of 14.9p (15.7p) are predicted, but so is an increased dividend of 6p (5.65p).

The recession in the housebuilding and construction industry will take its toll on the annual results from Travis Perkins, the builders' merchant and timber group. Final pre-tax profits are likely

to slide to £13 million, against £20.4 million, according to BZW. Earnings per share are expected to fall to 8.5p (13.8p), but the dividend should be maintained at 8p.

Interim: Drayton Asia Trust, Majestic Investments, Rosehaugh, SKF Group (first quarter).
Finals: Amer Group, Bank of Scotland, British Fittings Group, Eadie Holdings, Hopkinsons Group, Shiloh, Travis Perkins.

Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (March); quarterly house purchase finance statistics (first quarter); construction — new orders (February — provisional); bricks and cement production and deliveries (first quarter).

THURSDAY

The interim profits growth at Kwik Save, the discount supermarket group where Graeme Seabrook is the chief executive, will be held back by

the short-term costs of the group's strategy to protect its market position. In the first half, Kwik Save acted aggressively to protect its market share by cutting prices. However, this meant heavy erosion of gross margins, which, in turn, hit group profits.

The result of this aggressive pricing policy, taking on companies such as Aldi, was a 33 per cent rise in the group's share of dry-packaged groceries. However, the group sold a lot of lower-margin items, such as alcohol and cigarettes.

David Shriver, a food retailing analyst at County NatWest, has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £52.5 million, compared with £48.1 million last time. Market forecasts range

from £51 million to £53 million. Mr Shriver expects earnings per share to rise to 22.7p (20.9p) and an increased interim dividend of 4.7p (4.3p).

County is more positive on the longer-term prospects for Kwik Save, with full-year pre-tax profits expected to rise to £113 million (£101.7 million).

Analysts see little chance of a return to profits at McCarthy & Stone, the developer of retirement homes. The company continues to be affected by the stagnant housing market, which prevents would-be customers from raising the capital needed to finance a retirement flat.

The first-half pre-tax loss at McCarthy & Stone will be in the range of £4 million to £7.3 million, according to brokers' forecasts, with the interim dividend held at 0.5p.

The company made a £6.4 million loss in the previous first half. Annual profits peaked at £34 million in 1988.

Interim: Chemex International, Imperial Chemical Industries (first quarter), Kwik Save Group, McCarthy & Stone.
Finals: Aberforth Split Level Trust, CI Group, Filofax Group, Geared Income Investment Trust, Graust SA (US), McLaughlin & Harvey, Scottish Mortgage & Trust.

Economic statistics: New vehicle registrations (March); energy trends (February).

FRIDAY

Finals: Conroy Petroleum and Natural Resources, I & S UK Smaller Companies Trust, Upton & Southern Holdings.
Economic statistics: London sterling certificates of deposit (including bank and building society balance sheets) (March); bill turnover statistics (March); sterling commercial paper (March); money market statistics (March); provisional analysis of banking lending for house purchase (April 1).

PHILIP FANGALOS

No buck on Russia

I

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 27 1992

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THE TIME

Jeffrey turns up at Tilney

THREE months after the shock of his redundancy from Hoare & Co., after ten years in its employ, Richard Jeffrey, an economist, has resurfaced in a slightly different guise, at Charterhouse Tilney. Jeffrey, 34, who was regarded as good even though he was officially unrated in his Hoare days, is now head of research at Tilney. Although based in London, two-thirds of the analysis under his command are in Liverpool, and after only one week in the job, Jeffrey admits he is already well acquainted with Euston Station. He is believed to have suffered a drop in salary, from six to five figures, but is, nevertheless, delighted to be back at work. He says: "My redundancy money was sufficient to pay off part of my mortgage, but I still need to work." It is the first time Jeffrey — historically a Liverpool firm — has employed an economist, even if he will only be wearing that hat occasionally. "Charterhouse Tilney is establishing itself as an institutional agency broker," Jeffrey says. "It already has a good reputation in certain sectors, like food retailing. My job will be to try to expand that reputation."

With the Beatles

THE conservative blue cover of the annual report at Baltic, an asset financing and lease-

caution
ERM
rates

No buck passing on Russian aid

In the immediate euphoria in the West over the collapse of Soviet communism, talk was rife of "grand bargains" whereby Western governments would provide aid on a huge scale to rebuild the crumbling command economies of the East in return for definite commitment to agreed packages of economic reform. Translating vision into the nuts and bolts of financial aid was never to be easy. The agonising that has led the Group of Seven to the \$24 billion package to plug the gap in Russia's balance of payments and help stabilise the rouble suggests that the West is in danger of being too meagre with its resources, given the task in hand.

The Institute of International Finance, the Washington-based organisation for the commercial banks, estimates that the former Soviet Union's total debt stood at \$62 billion at the end of last year. American estimates put it at more than \$80 billion. Simply meeting interest and capital repayment obligations would cost close to \$20 billion this year. Without a good record for meeting external payments, Russia and the other former Soviet republics are unlikely to attract the flood of private investment from the West needed if the hardship of economic reform is to be rewarded.

The strict conditions that G7 and the international monetary institutions are insisting on for Russia contrast with the modesty of the aid package. Even James Baker, the American Secretary of State, has called the aid to the Russians "extraordinarily important" to America's national security interests. He has drawn attention to the trillions that went into winning the Cold war and argues that the opportunity must not be missed to foster the conversion of a former superpower rival to a capitalist friend. America's difficulty is that it has emerged as the world's undisputed political and military superpower, but as one whose economic muscle has withered badly. While Washington was successful in persuading others to pay for America's military victory in the Gulf conflict, the cost of transforming the former Soviet Union into a market system appears to require an open-ended commitment that makes the price of defeating Saddam Hussein look like a bargain.

Conditionality IMF-style might have worked its magic in the past on smaller countries, and even on Britain back in the 1970s. The size of the former Soviet Union, and Russia's natural aspirations to try to hold on to big power status, throw into doubt the wisdom of imposing too demanding a reform plan for Moscow, especially if Western funds prove inadequate. It is impossible to avoid the comparison between what is now being offered and the Marshall Plan under which America distributed some \$13 billion, or 2.3 per cent of its gross domestic product, between 1947 and 1951 in assistance to a war-wrecked Western Europe. The plan, equivalent to more than \$100 billion today, not only delivered the region 20 years of unprecedented growth, but it also allowed Washington to push European governments towards the mixed economy and away from the post-Depression distrust of capitalism and the wartime habit of tight government control.

America, highly critical of Germany's unification-driven budget deficits, is itself hamstrung by its own fiscal profligacy. The American budget deficit is set to hit \$400 billion, or 6.8 per cent of GDP, in fiscal 1992. Next year, it could climb to \$450 billion, or 7.5 per cent of GDP, making criticism of Germany rather hollow. Japan, with its handsome budget and current account surpluses, could be the obvious candidate to lead the way to more Western funds for the former Soviet Union. America's dilemma is that it wants Japan to boost domestic demand too. It is difficult to see how it would be wise to persuade Japan to shed its fiscal probity, particularly at this time of great uncertainty in the Tokyo markets, and open itself to the untold risk of massive commitments to the former Soviet empire. In these troubled times, the West must pool resources, not seek to pass the buck.

Treasury fails to spot difference between a party and a wake

Anatole Kaletsky feels that as long as interest rates remain at present levels, the best that can be expected is a slow economic convalescence

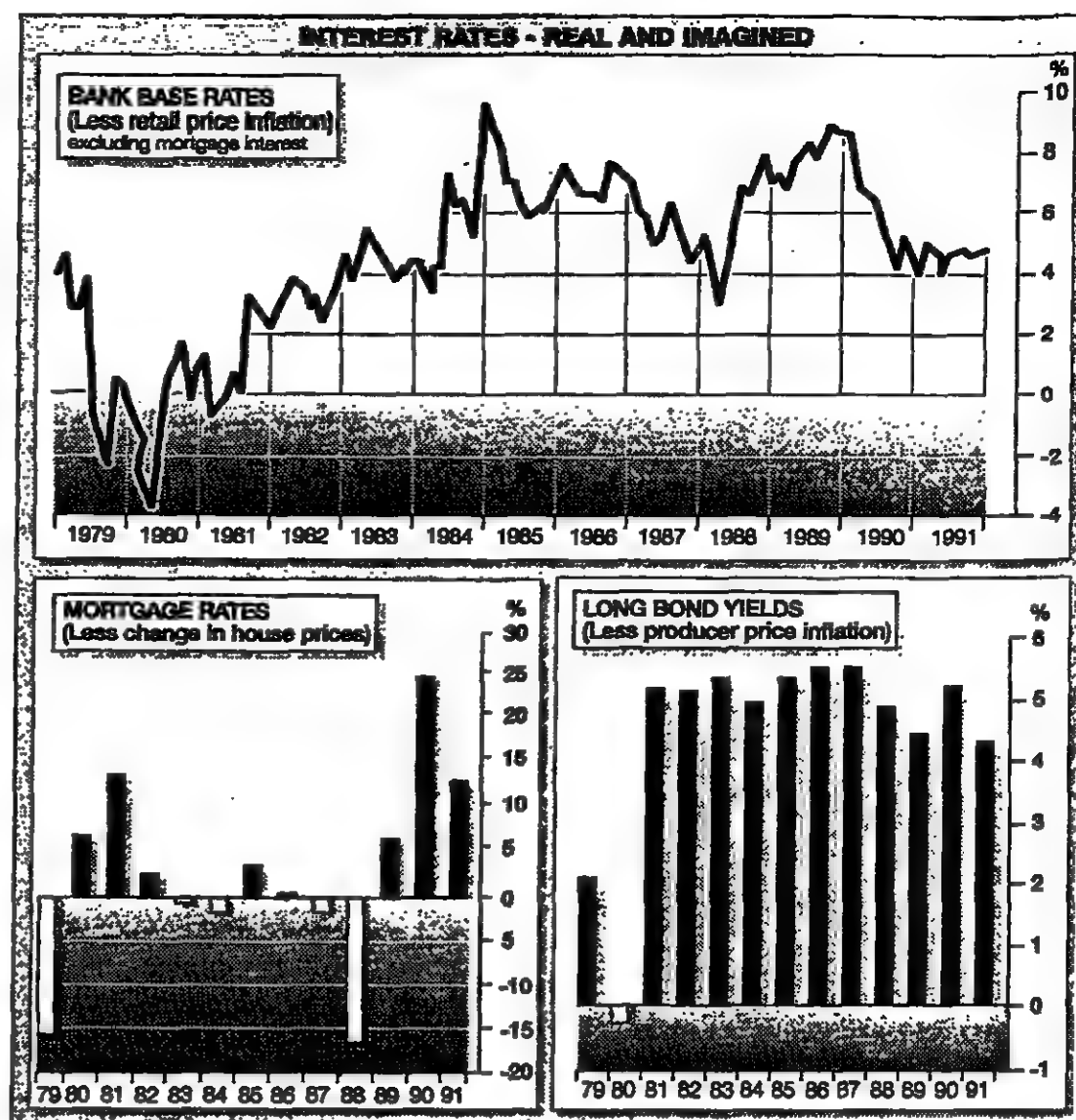
The good news is that Britain is in the first stage of an economic recovery. The bad news is that this is the third such recovery in less than a year. Admittedly, the prospects look better this time than they did last spring, when the economy had to contend with Norman Lamont's perversely deflationary first Budget, or in the autumn, when confidence was hit by the twin blows of disappointed interest rate expectations and the political anxieties of a six-month election campaign.

But the fact remains that between the prospect and the reality falls the shadow, to paraphrase T. S. Eliot — and in this case the shadow takes on the bulky form of Sir Terence Burns, permanent secretary of the Treasury. Until Sir Terence decides to relax the monetary stranglehold he inflicted on Britain as a penance for his own previous complicity in the Lawson boom (and now the election is over, it is surely time to dispense with the British anachronism of blaming politicians for the decisions civil servants force them to make), the captains of industry can fill the letters column of *The Times* with mutual exhortations to "show what enterprise can achieve", to "restore optimism" and to "make recovery a self-fulfilling prophecy"; but recovery will not happen.

As long as interest rates remain at present levels, the best that can be expected is a spurt of post-election euphoria followed by a slow convalescence that will feel more like an economic malady than a recovery for at least another year. In saying this, I am not suddenly endorsing the conventional pessimism about Britain's longer-term growth prospects, exemplified by the misleading Coopers & Lybrand report on the Fiscal Reality Gap, which I criticised during the election campaign.

There is every likelihood that economic growth will accelerate eventually to about the 3.5 per cent projected by the Treasury for 1994-7. As other commentators have pointed out, a growth rate like that would be on the low side compared with the upswings of previous economic cycles. Given the historical record and the vast amount of slack created in industry and the labour market by the present recession, I would agree with Samuel Brittan's judgement in the *Financial Times* last Thursday: far from exaggerating the likely strength of the economy, the Treasury has probably "underestimated growth, not necessarily for this year or next, but over the 1990s".

The trouble lies in the proviso about timing. Sooner or later, the economy will move back towards fuller capacity utilisation, and unemployment will start falling. But at present, interest rates are too high to allow a recovery to take up the slack



created by recession. This would require not merely a return to growth, but to growth of at least 3 per cent annually. And until the economy starts growing strongly enough to put surplus industrial capacity and labour back into productive use, it will be premature and misleading to talk of recovery.

Anybody who believes otherwise should think back to the early 1980s. In the last recession, the economy stopped contracting in the second quarter of 1981, but it was not until 1983, when GDP grew by 3.7 per cent, that unemployment stabilised and industrial investment began to rise as a proportion of national income from the recession lows. Yet today, private economists and financial analysts generally believe that even the sluggish performance of the early 1980s is more than Britain can hope for in the years ahead. In this respect, the conventional wisdom is probably too pessimistic.

As the charts show, interest rates at present are about the same, relative to inflation, as they were in 1981. Even for homeowners, who suffered a year of unprecedented punishment in 1990 as a result of high interest rates and falling house prices, the real cost of money is now roughly similar to the early 1980s. For long-term financial and industrial investors, who compare the yield on government bonds, with the

underlying growth of producer prices, real interest rates were substantially lower by last year than they had been a decade earlier, and they have fallen further in the past few weeks. Admittedly, debt levels are now much higher than they were at the end of the last recession, especially among homeowners and consumers. But this can cut both ways — the fact that consumer indebtedness is so high means that the reductions in interest rates since the peak of October 1990 have boosted disposable incomes far more than comparable cuts would have done in the past decade.

The real objection to the present level of interest rates, therefore, is not that it will keep the economy in deep recession forever. It is that high interest rates will condemn Britain to a further long period of feeble expansion. As in the early 1980s, it could take years to turn post-recession convalescence into a genuine recovery. The difference between convalescence and real recovery is not just a matter of semantics. It goes to the heart of economic policy-making, financial expectations, political behaviour and even international relations. As the disagreements at yesterday's G7 meeting in Washington made clear, Americans do not accept that an economic recovery can be said to have started

the moment that GDP shows some minimal quarterly growth. President Bush and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, have both clearly stated that growth would have to accelerate above 3.5 per cent and unemployment would have to start falling before the task of pulling the economy out of recession could be described as successfully accomplished.

In fact, the urgent need for a period of rapid growth is at the heart of America's election debate. It was lost on British voters only because of the Labour party's wrong-headed determination to beat the Tories at macroeconomic conservatism — a futile battle still being fought by John Smith, Margaret Beckett and other candidates for the party's leadership, despite their electoral defeat.

Labour leaders, with the exceptions of Bryan Gould and Ken Livingstone, have abandoned their traditional desire to restore full employment because they believe this would be incompatible with membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism and the commitment to the ERM must come first. This also seems to be the reason most private economists and analysts assume that Britain will now have to accept a long period of sluggish convalescence even weaker than the recovery from the last recession. Yet this is not necessarily true. Germany is now in such a mess

politically, financially and economically — that it may not be necessary for Britain to pay a large interest rate premium to attract international investment to sterling.

Given sterling's wide band in the ERM, it might be particularly good for Britain to have lower interest rates than Germany. If the pound was near the bottom of its 6 per cent band and expected to appreciate back towards the mid-point over the years ahead, Britain's chances of undercutting short-term interest rates in Germany would be particularly good if long-term bond rates remained higher in pounds than in marks. If the government cut bank base rates, while the gilt-edged market rates kept ten and 20-year rates roughly where they are today, it is quite possible that even more foreign investment would flow into sterling.

At present Britain shares with Germany and most other ERM countries a "negatively sloped yield curve", which shows higher interest rates on short-term money than on long bonds. But this particular German financial import is inimical to economic growth. A positive yield curve, with bank rates below long gilt yields, would be a harbinger of economic recovery and could well attract equity and industrial investment into Britain, just as low short-term rates and relatively high bond yields have done in America.

Of course, such hopes might be forlorn. Sterling might instantly fall to its ERM floor and threaten to collapse out of the system, even if British interest rates were reduced by a mere half point. But what if they did? If the government wanted to re-emphasise its commitment to the ERM, all it would have to do would be to put interest rates back up. With the election out of the way, there would be no political risk in such a turnaround, especially if it involved an interest rate move of only half a point. So why not put the idea of lower rates to the test? The Treasury does not want a genuine economic recovery, preferring stagnation at in the 1981-3 cycle, but a period of sustainable growth. The first part of this statement makes sense; the second is utter nonsense.

Another period of over-expansion like 1987-9 is not needed. But there is absolutely no connection between the boom conditions the Treasury mandarins laid on for Nigel Lawson at the top of the last economic cycle, with a period of above-trend growth after recession. In fact, growth must by definition be "unsustainable" for a year or two after a deep recession if idle machinery and people are to be put back to work. Responsible economic management must restrain demand when the economy is accelerating towards inflation, but it must also allow the economy to build up momentum before it puts on the brakes. William McChesney Martin, a distinguished Fed chairman of the 1960s, once said the economic policymaker must be a killjoy by disposition. His role was to "take away the punchbowl just as the party is getting merry". The trouble with Britain's Treasury is that it cannot tell the difference between a party and a wake.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Jeffrey turns up at Tilney

THREE months after the shock of his redundancy from Hoare Govett, after ten years in its employ, Richard Jeffrey, an economist, has resurfaced in a slightly different guise, at Charterhouse Tilney. Jeffrey, 34, who was regarded as good even though he was officially unrated in his Hoare days, is now head of research at Tilney. Although based in London, two-thirds of the analysts under his command are in Liverpool, and, after only one week in the job, Jeffrey admits he is already well acquainted with Euston Station. He is believed to have suffered a drop in salary, from six to five figures, but is, nevertheless, delighted to be back at work. He says: "My redundancy money was sufficient to pay off part of my mortgage, but I still need to work." It is the first time Tilney — historically a Liverpool firm — has employed an economist, even if he will only be wearing that hat occasionally. "Charterhouse Tilney is establishing itself as an institutional agency broker," Jeffrey says. "It already has a good reputation in certain sectors, like food retailing. My job will be to try to expand that reputation."

With the Beatles

THE conservative blue cover of the annual report at Baltic, an asset financing and leasing



"I hear they are shedding thousands more jobs"

ing company, gives little clue to the more colourful background of the man who designed it. Roger Huggett, 46, who works from his Sussex home, once designed album covers for the Beatles. He says: "I was involved with *Abbey Road*, *Let It Be* — on the photo side — and I helped with *Sgt Pepper*. I was then totally responsible for the 'white album', but it was more art direction in those days. I liked to use up-and-coming designers." Huggett's involvement with the Beatles began in the 1960s when John Lennon and Yoko Ono spotted him in a Bond Street art gallery, where he was working as an assistant to a designer of art catalogues. "John and Yoko were just starting to get involved in art and they wanted people involved in art rather than ordinary design."

I still do a lot of work for Paul McCartney. I am his art director — for all his album covers as well as Linda's books. Anything they do goes through me." This year's Baltic report is not Huggett's first. "I have done it every year since they started the business in 1985," he says.

Boden well

NOT all news is bad news at Lloyd's — not for George Boden, at least. Boden, a Lloyd's name who admits to having "had my share of losses over the last three years", is also managing director of Steel Burrell Jones, a Lloyd's insurance broker, whose energy insurance subsidiary, SBJ Regis Low, has just won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement. Boden, who paid £30 million for Regis Low in December, says its achievements have been based on the hard work of its employees who work non-stop from "the early part of the day" until late at night. Asked to define "early part of the day", he says his colleagues are often at their desks at 7am. He admits, however, that in the context of Lloyd's, that phrase might once have meant anything up to lunchtime. But, according to Boden, this is "emphatically no longer the case. My experience is that everyone in marine and energy insurance has to work jolly hard for a living these days."

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Compensating directors

From the Director of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Directors

Sir, Dr M Gillibrand (Business Letters, April 24) has misrepresented the IoD position in relation to the term of directors' service contracts. My letter of April 17 states that we regard terms of over three years as being excessive. This in no sense carries the implication that shorter terms may not be appropriate in particular circumstances.

Having said that, I totally agree with Dr Gillibrand's view that the reason for termination should be taken into account in reaching a termination settlement and this will be one of the factors involved in negotiation between lawyers acting for the company and for the departing director respectively. The purpose of limiting the contractual term is to strengthen the hand of the company's lawyers in these negotiations

by restricting the departing director's entitlement in respect of the balance of his contract.

When these negotiations are concluded and a termination agreement signed by the parties, to suggest, as Dr Gillibrand does, that shareholders should then seek to intervene is rather like locking the stable door when the horse has bolted.

There is, of course, a clear distinction between the function of setting investment horizons for financial institutions, or indeed any other company, and that of protecting shareholders' interests by limiting departing directors' rights to compensation. This distinction appears to have escaped Mr Owen Travis (Business Letters, April 24).

Yours sincerely,
BLENYTH JENKINS,
Director of Corporate Affairs,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Why companies are leaving London

From Dr Dennis Jones

Sir, Recent editions of various newspapers have carried out substantial analysis of the reasons for the Canary Wharf financial problems and the glut of empty office space in the capital. More and more companies are moving out of London because:

- a. It is cheaper to operate out of the capital.
- b. More importantly, the communications revolution is removing the need to move millions of people every day into central office blocks to

perform tasks which could be done hundreds of miles away using telephones, computers and fax machines.

It never ceases to amaze me that so little vision is exhibited by property developers and their highly paid consultants. Perhaps the old adage of investing in "bricks and mortar" should be changed to "bits and bytes".

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS JONES,
Limberlost, Sunnyside Road,
Wareham, Dorset.

ADVERTISEMENT

LEGAL NOTICE

JONES, DAY, REAVIS & POGUE
Attorneys for the Debtor
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Marc S. Kirschenher (NYSK 3631)

LEGAL NOTICE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In Re
MAXWELL NEWSPAPERS, INC.
d/b/a DAILY NEWS,
Debtor

In Proceedings For A
Reorganization Under
Chapter 11
Chapter No. 91-B-15531 (TLB)

NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR THE FILING OF PROOFS OF CLAIM

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an order of the Court dated March 27, 1992 (the "Bar Order"), and in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 3003(c)(3), the time within which creditors of Maxwell Newspapers, Inc. d/b/a Daily News (the "Debtor") who have not already done so may file their proofs of claim against the Debtor's estate extends to and including the 15th day of June, 1992.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT ANY CLAIM AGAINST THE DAILY NEWS THAT IS NOT FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BAR ORDER ON OR BEFORE JUNE 15, 1992, SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED. THE DAILY NEWS AND ITS PROPERTY SHALL BE FOREVER DISCHARGED FROM ANY AND ALL INDEBTEDNESS OR LIABILITY WITH RESPECT TO SUCH CLAIM, AND THE HOLDER OF SUCH CLAIM SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VOTE ON A PLAN OF REORGANIZATION OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISTRIBUTION IN THIS CHAPTER 11 CASE.

For purposes of this Notice, "Claim" shall mean (a) right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured or unsecured or (b) right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured or unsecured.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT CREDITORS WHOSE CLAIMS ARE LISTED ON THE SCHEDULES OF THE DAILY NEWS FILED WITH THIS COURT ON MARCH 16, 1992, OR ARE LISTED ON ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, AND WHOSE CLAIMS ARE NOT LISTED AS "CONTINGENT," "UNLIQUIDATED" OR "DISPUTED" AND WHO DO NOT DISPUTE THE LISTED AMOUNT OF THEIR CLAIMS, NEED NOT FILE PROOFS OF CLAIM.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT creditors who are not listed on the schedules or creditors whose claims are listed as "contingent," "unliquidated" or "disputed" or who dispute the amount of their claim as listed on the schedules, must, in order to participate in any distribution in this case, file proofs of claim with the Bankruptcy Clerk, P.O. Box 473, Bowling Green Station, New York, New York 10014-0473.

CREDITORS WHO HAVE ALREADY FILED PROOFS OF CLAIM NEED NOT FILE AN ADDITIONAL DUPLICATE PROOF OF CLAIM.

Any person or entity whose claim arises from rejection of an executory contract or an unexpired lease after March 27, 1992 but prior to the entry of an order or orders by the Bankruptcy Court confirming the Debtor's plan of reorganization, must file its proof of claim within thirty days from the date of the order rejecting said contract or lease.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that in the event the Daily News amends its schedules subsequent to the date hereof, the Daily News shall give notice of such amendment to the holders of the claims affected thereby, and such holders shall be afforded thirty days from the date on which such notice is given to file a proof of claim, if necessary, or be forever barred from doing so.

THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BAR ORDER APPLY TO ALL CLAIMS OF WHATEVER CHARACTER AGAINST THE DEBTOR OR ITS PROPERTY, WHETHER SECURED OR UNSECURED, LIQUIDATED OR UNLIQUIDATED, FIXED OR CONTINGENT.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Debtor's schedules of claims may be examined and inspected by interested parties in the office of the Bankruptcy Clerk, Room 614, United States Bankruptcy Court, Alexander Hamilton Custom House, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10004-1068, during regular court hours.

Dated: New York, New York
March 27, 1992

JONES, DAY, REAVIS & POGUE
Attorneys for Maxwell
Newspapers, Inc. d/b/a Daily News
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 316-3939

7847H

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
/s/ TINA L. BROZMAN
United States Bankruptcy Judge

West Ham given master class in the art of survival

[illegible]

Eubank packs punch again

By SHUKMAR SEN
SAG CORRESPONDENT

S Eubank could at last find a fight to terms with the best of the last eight months. Only three months ago he was weighed down by a bout with Michael Watson, who suffered brain damage after a bout with Eubank, and about a year ago he was in a fight with a black contender, which he could barely win. Now, however, Eubank is back in the ring, and he is back in the ring with a fight to terms with the best of the last eight months.

Manchester on Saturday pulled out his right hand to knock out Michael Watson, who suffered brain damage after a bout with Eubank, and about a year ago he was in a fight with a black contender, which he could barely win. Now, however, Eubank is back in the ring, and he is back in the ring with a fight to terms with the best of the last eight months.

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Games unites supporters beyond racial barriers

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN JOHANNESBURG



Winkler: qualified

THERE were two remarkable occurrences — in the minds of those not familiar with South Africa — on the second day of the African Unity athletics meeting here at Germiston. The first, I had witnessed ten years ago, at Stellenbosch, when spectators cheering a black competitor, and now, for the first time at an international non-racial event, thousands of blacks cheering a white.

To consider the second event, first, As Elana Meyer, South Africa's most conspicuous hope for an Olympic medal this year, ran a lap of honour, hundreds of black spectators rushed down to the railings

around the track and hammered their appreciation on the metal hoardings. Then, as Meyer reached the grandstand, the black section of the crowd, possibly two-fifths of the 17,000, broke into the Xhosa song *Tshothshothshothsho*, a spontaneous tribal chant that invokes achievement or hard work. If South Africa has a harmonious future — and there are some who talk of civil war — then there was emotional evidence that the races can be wilyly nurtured, and tolerate each other.

Meyer's 3,000 metres victory, by a substantial margin over Susan Sirma, of Kenya, and Gete Wamo, of Ethiopia, in 8min 59.66sec, was an impressive win in Dakar last

week. It remains to be seen whether she is more than an outstanding even-pace runner and has the firepower for an Olympic cauldron. She was paced throughout the final laps by a motorcycle-mounted television camera: an interference the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) should ban. The reception given earlier to Bobang Phiri for his 400 metres victory over Benyounes Lahou, of Morocco — reversing by a mere last week's result — was as rousing as that for Meyer. The white-dominated grandstand stood to him — his 45.2sec being half a second inside the Olympic qualifying time — and for ten minutes he was surrounded by a swarm of white autograph-hunting

schoolchildren and several men in their Forties. I had seen this happen when Freddie Williams, also from the Cape and now a naturalised Canadian, won the national championships in 1983. The seeds of integration were being sown long before they came to the attention of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or the IAAF.

It will be difficult to say which was more essential to South Africa's inter-racial development: the normality of black champions or black spectators at previously white-dominated sports. There were vasty more black spectators here on Saturday than you will see in Britain or the United States, but the population ratios are rather different.

Phiri, who is 24 next month, was a sprinter for six years with the Bellville club in Cape Town until he converted last year. He had a best time for 100 metres of 10.40sec, and his first 400 metres was a fast hurdler's speed, 48.0sec. By the end of last year, he had improved to 47.12sec.

He is slim by 400-metre standards, with none of the bulk of Reynolds or Black or the African record holder, Egbunike, of Nigeria, and his improvement this year is spectacular. Where does he go now for the experience to reach, say, the Olympic semi-finals? "Where the best guys are," he replies, with a quiet, unpretentious confidence.

He is working on his weaknesses with his coach, Peter

Potgieter, but will not say what they are. What are his strengths? "That I'm one hell of a 400-metre runner," he says with a grin. He had expected no better this season than the high 45s. At the present rate, by the time of the world championships next year, he could be challenging Egbunike's 44.17sec.

This was much more than an athletics meeting for South Africa, it was a milestone in social history. Athletically, they are clearly going to frighten nobody this year. Only eight competitors beat the Olympic qualifying time, while against less than the cream of African opposition, they only won five of the international men's and women's track events.

The pick of performances, Phiri and Meyer apart, were

Marcel Winkler and Elinda Vorster, with sub-qualifying 100 metres times; Vorster's defeat of Mary Onyiah, the African record-holder, with 23.09sec in the 200 metres; Myrle Bothma's sub-qualifying 400 metres hurdles (beaten for the first time, by Bidouane, of Morocco, in seven years); Charmaine Weaver's joint African high jump record, in second place, with the winner, Lucienne Nda, of Ivory Coast, of 1.94 metres; Karen van der Veen's 100 metres hurdles of 13.16sec; and Tshakile Ndzimande's 20.40sec in second place behind Frankie Fredericks, of Namibia, whose 20.09sec was the fastest 200 metres of the year and the best in South Africa.

Monte Carlo champion goes for a double

Muster may enter French event as a dangerous floater

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MONTE CARLO

NEWS that another grass-court tournament has been scheduled next year in Germany will have interested two Wimbledon champions yesterday, but not Thomas Muster, the new Monte Carlo Open champion, whose thoughts are firmly fixed on the red stuff in Paris next month.

On the evidence of his 100-minute 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 dismantling of Aaron Krickstein yesterday, the Austrian is a contender to become the first player since Bjorn Borg 12 years ago to win both Monte Carlo and French Open titles in the same year. At least, that is Krickstein's verdict. "I would put him alongside Jim Courier and Michael Chang as the toughest to beat on clay," the American said. "He must be a favourite." With this title, his first of the year, Muster will rise to just inside the top 20 on the computer, but there is still a chance he will not be in the top 16 in time for the French. If Andre Agassi continues his rapid decline over the next three weeks as well, two potential champions could be unseated, a source of some discom-

fort to the non claycourt fraternity. Imagine Becker v Muster in the first round. Becker, who together with Stich had the indignity of being the aperitif to the main course in the doubles final yesterday, would rather not. He already has his plate full with a first round match against Martin Jaite in Madrid this week.

In the event, the all-star German combination, who are going for gold in the Olympic doubles in Barcelona, provided rather better fare in winning their first doubles title than Muster and Krickstein did in a disappointingly one-sided final. In their other guise as Wimbledon singles champions, the pair will also be top of the promoter's list of attractions when a new \$350,000 grass-court event is launched at Halle, near Hannover, in the week before the 1993 Wimbledon championships.

The tournament will be part of the IBM/ATP tour and the organisers have already enlisted the help of the former Wimbledon groundsman, Jim Thorn, and Roger Ambrose, the secretary of Wimbledon, in preparing the ground. But the reaction of the Lawn Tennis Association's John Feaver, the tournament director of the \$250,000 Direct Line Manchester Open, which is scheduled for the same week, was not so enthusiastic.

As both are world series events and therefore able to pay guarantees, Manchester will now be involved in an expensive auction for the limited pool of top players, who will have the choice of four tournaments — Queen's and Rossmore, in the Netherlands, are the week before — in their Wimbledon build-up. "It is good for the grass-court game, but it will make my life harder. I am surprised that the ATP has sanctioned another event because I had been told the calendar was full. It's all been done in a big rush," Feaver said.

None of that will affect Muster, a student of the Villa school of muscular tennis, who is not a devotee of grass-court tennis. Once he had taken the first set and broken early in the second, the \$170,000 first prize was in safe keeping.

Wimbledon, in preparing the ground. But the reaction of the Lawn Tennis Association's John Feaver, the tournament director of the \$250,000 Direct Line Manchester Open, which is scheduled for the same week, was not so enthusiastic.

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GOLF

Forsbrand savours a taste of success

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN CANNES

IT WAS impossible to tell just by looking at him that Anders Forsbrand was a deeply fulfilled man after winning the Cannes Open at Cannes Mougins yesterday.

Three long, rocky years ago, the gangly, big-hitting Swede plunged to 114th in the order of merit. Yesterday, a lot of hard work and soul-searching later, he was top of the money list with £179,548, had become the tour's eighteenth millionaire and was the owner of a large cuddly lion, presented by the sponsors.

"You're not exactly dancing on the table, Anders," someone chided as he relaxed, sotto voce, the rigours of the final round that had brought him his second victory of the season. Forsbrand smiled. "It takes a while for everything to sink in," he said.

Forsbrand had four birdies in the last six holes to come home in 33 for a round of 70 and a total of 273, 15 under par — one shot ahead of Per-Ulrik Johansson and three ahead of Colin Montgomerie.

By the 10th yesterday, Johansson was two shots ahead, but once past the 12th, Forsbrand went on his favourite part of the course, and it showed. He hit a massive drive at the 403-yard 13th, a sand-wedge to eight feet and holed the putt.

He forged ahead with a 12-footer for a birdie at the 14th and held off Johansson with birdies at the 16th and 18th.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (68 and 69 under par): 273: A Forsbrand (S), 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815,

MONDAY APRIL 27 1992

Football League championship title returns to Elland Road for the first time since 1974

Wilkinson's calm approach vital to Leeds success

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

HOWARD Wilkinson did not see for himself the moment when his Leeds United side captured the Football League championship for the first time since 1974. The news was relayed to him yesterday by his five-year-old son, Ben, as he sat having lunch on the outskirts of Sheffield.

The setting was appropriate. While Manchester United have been surrounded by high anxiety during the last few weeks, Wilkinson has remained consistently relaxed. His demeanour has helped to calm the club which appointed him as manager four years ago. Then they were in

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	41	21	16	4	73	37	79
Man Utd	41	20	15	6	69	32	75
Sheff Wed	41	21	11	9	62	46	74
Arsenal	41	18	15	8	78	43	69
Man City	41	19	10	12	58	46	67
Liverpool	41	18	15	10	47	40	63
Nottm Forest	41	16	11	14	60	53	59
Sheff Utd	41	16	9	16	65	50	57

danger of being relegated from the second division. Having talked to the chairman for six hours, he recognised that he could fulfil one of his managerial ambitions. Only with the assistance of Manchester United, who were considered 8-1 on favourites less than three weeks ago, has he been able to claim the biggest prize ahead of schedule. "I couldn't have envisaged, when we set out

our plan, that success on this scale would come as soon as it has," Wilkinson said.

"It seemed an impossibility then. There has been no turning point over my period at Leeds or even this season. We just kept plugging away. All I've ever asked of the players was that they do their best and, if they did that, they would get what they deserve. "If there is a secret, it has been sticking to the plan we drew up at the outset, having the right attitude and principles. Yet it was significant that, unlike Alex Ferguson, Manchester United's manager, he recently chose to return to the settled side he had picked before Christmas.

He believed then that Leeds, though regarded as the second favourites, might indeed finish in first place. "Christmas was the significant time. It always is a milestone in any season. We were not the best placed team then but I thought that we were in with a chance."

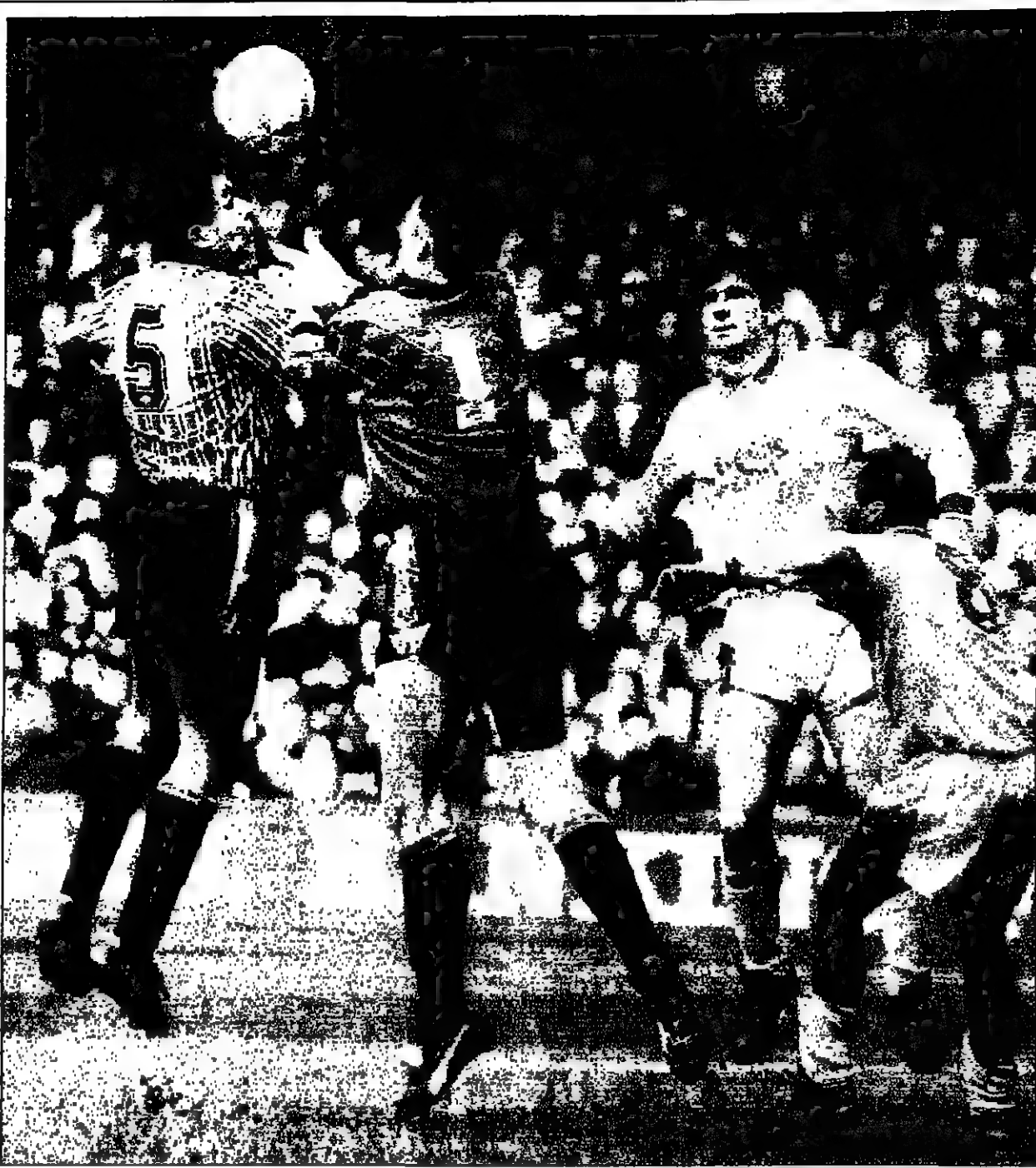
Wilkinson, whose only other previous honour was to win promotion to the first division with Notts County, celebrated them with a curry and French champagne. Yesterday he was with his second wife, Samantha, and a couple of officials at his club, Mike Hennigan and Bill Fotherby. "This is the most fantastic day of my life," he said. "One of the dreams that have come true. When I was 24, I thought I'd better become a manager because, as a player, I was a bricklayer's labourer. I was young and stupid then. I could grant myself liberties and my ambition was to win the title and a European Cup."

Leeds will next season be England's representative in the principal continental competition and Manchester United, even if they finish below Sheffield Wednesday, will go into the UEFA Cup as the winners of the Rumbelow Cup.

Wilkinson offered his sympathy to Ferguson. "I know what he is going through. To have to play four games in six days is murderous and most unfair. People suffer in this game perhaps when they don't need to. My players have been consistent, they've showed character and some of them have had to play out of position."

"I thought that a draw at Sheffield United would be a good result, the way that Manchester United have been playing recently. I didn't tell my players that and for them to win, especially as we had three players who were injured, is a terrific result."

Ipswich promoted, page 19



Moment of destiny: Gayle, of Sheffield United, heads the ball beyond Rees for Leeds' third goal

Gayle completes bizarre day

Sheffield United 2
Leeds United 3

By Stuart Jones

THE championship which Manchester United did not dare to win yesterday given freely instead to Leeds. Bryan Gayle, Sheffield United's central defender and captain, might have been sporting the white glove of a butler as he handed it to them on a silver platter.

An own goal from him 12 minutes from the end decided both the derby match at Bramall Lane and the destiny of the title. There could be no suggestion of Yorkshire collusion, though, for Gayle had earlier been primarily responsible for keeping Leeds away from the biggest prize. However, the book implies that Samaranch's long active role with the Facists is incompatible with him being president of the IOC, an organisation with ethical associations.

On Nebiolo, the authors record the scandal of the long jump at the 1987 world athletics championships in Rome, when Italian officials attempted to fix the result so that Giovanni Evangelista finished third. The reluctance of Nebiolo to institute any serious enquiry and his refusal to accept any responsibility for the incident despite damning criticism in the independent investigation by the Italian Olympic committee has been well documented. However, the authors tell the history of the scandal in a detail that has not been available in English publications before.

The importance of Adidas to the leading international sports, like athletics and football, is also well known. However, Dasser sought to influence the international governing bodies, down to the election of key officials. The book quotes Denis Howell, the former minister for sport, as saying of Dasser:

As Manchester United had been unable to cope in the rarified air of the first division's peak, so Leeds were also visibly shaky. For the opening half-hour, their defence resembled a charitable organisation so often did they commit unforced errors and so regularly did they unnecessarily yield possession.

The tension was evident elsewhere. Chapman, Barty and Speed were all cautioned for arguing too vehemently with the decisions of George Courtney, officiating in his last game. Yet Leeds were punished only once during their period of stage fright.

After Whyte had involuntarily cleared off the line from Pemberton, Leeds were again discomfited by a corner. The ball bounced off Fairclough, Hodgson and Strachan before falling conveniently for Cork. He was only playing because Davison, since he is on loan from Elland Road, had been omitted by mutual agreement.

Once they were behind, curiously, Leeds settled and

equalised on the stroke of half-time, although luck played a huge part. In challenging for Strachan's quickly taken free kick, Rees was injured and Gayle's clearance rebounded off Speed and ricocheted in off the body of Wallace.

Sheffield United's goalkeeper re-emerged with a heavily bandaged right knee and it was obvious that his mobility was restricted. Within a minute, Speed, taking advantage of his hesitancy, struck an upright with a ferocious volley but Lukic was under greater threat at the other end.

He had to tip over Deane's drive and deflect another effort from the tall centre forward before Leeds took the lead shortly after the hour. Rees, unable to jump, allowed McAllister's cross to float over his head and Newsome, crouching at the far post, nodded in.

Almost immediately, another of Gannon's corners caused further chaos, though, and Chapman inadvertently turned in Pemberton's low

cross. It seemed then that the entertaining derby, disturbed by high winds and occasional showers, might drift to a balanced finish. Yet Gayle, as he retreated towards his hand-capped goalkeeper, was to change again the fluctuating afternoon.

Accompanied by Cantona and Wallace, he appeared to be in control of a through-ball. But the ball, instead of being hooked away, bounced first off his knee and then off his head. It looped over Rees and rolled into the vacant net. Leeds knew even then that they were all but there and later it was confirmed.

Gary Pallister, the Manchester United centre back, may miss the European championship finals in June after severing an artery in a foot during yesterday's game against Liverpool.

Sheffield United: M. Rees; Pemberton, D. Bennett, J. Gannon (subs: J. Whitehouse, B. Gayle, P. Bradley, G. Hodgson, P. Rogers, A. Cork (sub: R. Bryson), J. Davies, C. Buckley. Leeds: M. Lukic; J. Lumsden, J. Newsome, A. Dorrigo, D. Bailey, G. Fairclough, G. Whyte, G. Strachan (sub: C. Struth), R. Wallace, L. Chapman, G. McAllister (sub: E. Cantona), G. Speed. Referee: R. Courtney.

Anfield gloats as United crack

Liverpool 2
Manchester United 0

By Ian Ross

THE dying embers of Manchester United's challenge for the championship were finally extinguished yesterday in front of a crowd at Anfield that rose at the final whistle to back in their defeat. It was cruel but such is the bitter rivalry between Merseyside and Manchester.

Nine days earlier, before Leeds United's arrival at the same stadium, Manchester United were such overwhelming favourites to take their first title in 25 years that bookmakers had stopped taking bets on them.

A fixture that was always destined to be problematical became all the more severe after Leeds' victory earlier in the day. United really had to win. In the event, they slipped to a third defeat in seven days but their fate had been sealed several weeks ago with impotence befalling the forwards and self-doubt gnawing at the midfield.

On an afternoon impaired by a blustery, unpredictable wind United initially applied themselves well. But the surprising inclusion of Robson and Ince, two men who were not expected to play again this season, was a calculated gamble that brought only limited success.

Although Robson's belligerence occasionally threatened to ruffle lethargic opponents, his inability to eclipse Molby was the decisive factor amid the fierce aggression and unrelenting incident. Molby was a towering presence who defended with assurance and who instigated the attacks which precipitated United's downfall.

Liverpool's first serious assault yielded a 12th-minute goal. Barnes deftly flicked the ball into the path of Rush who, typically, had timed his run to perfection. He lured Schmeichel away from his line before slotting the ball inside a post for his first goal against United in 24 appearances. In reply, Ince struck the foot of a post. Hughes twice drove over the crossbar and United were denied again when Bruce and Kanchelskis both struck the bar in one attack.

The finally broken after Houghton had driven a cross from Thomas against the bar. Walters stabbed home the rebound to end the arguments.

Liverpool: M. Hooper, R. Jones, D. Burrows, N. Turner (sub: B. Venison), J. Molloy, M. Wright, D. Saunders, I. Rush (sub: M. Walters), J. Barnes, M. Thomas. Manchester United: P. Schmeichel, M. Donaghy, D. Ince, S. Bruce, A. Kanchelskis, G. Pallister (sub: M. Phillips), B. Robson, P. Ince, B. McClellan, M. Hughes, R. Giles. Referee: R. O'Neil.

Photograph, page 19

Book criticises sports leaders

By John Goodbody

THE increasing commercialisation of the Olympic Games and the domination of international sport by several well known figures are criticised in a book published today. Two British journalists allege that not only has there been widespread manipulation of sport for financial reasons, but that many of the activities of leading figures in sports politics are contrary to the spirit and ideals of the Olympic charter. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is planning to take legal action against Simon & Schuster, the publishers.

The *Lords of the Rings* concentrates on examining the records of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA, football's governing body, and the influence of the late Horst Dasser, the head of Adidas, the sportswear company. Vyv Simson and Andrew Jennings, the journalists, outline Samaranch's history during the Franco regime in Spain and his allegiance to the Fascist party. Many contemporary Spanish politicians and public figures also had prominent roles in Fran-

co's regime because anyone who wanted political involvement in the 37 years before the dictator's death in 1975 had to work with a totalitarian government. However, the book implies that Samaranch's long active role with the Facists is incompatible with him being president of the IOC, an organisation with ethical associations.

On Nebiolo, the authors record the scandal of the long jump at the 1987 world athletics championships in Rome, when Italian officials attempted to fix the result so that Giovanni Evangelista finished third. The reluctance of Nebiolo to institute any serious enquiry and his refusal to accept any responsibility for the incident despite damning criticism in the independent investigation by the Italian Olympic committee has been well documented. However, the authors tell the history of the scandal in a detail that has not been available in English publications before.

The importance of Adidas to the leading international sports, like athletics and football, is also well known. However, Dasser sought to influence the international governing bodies, down to the election of key officials. The book quotes Denis Howell, the former minister for sport, as saying of Dasser:

"The point is that no one in his position as a commercial manufacturer should be involved in trying to seek control of world sporting bodies. It is a concentration of power which I regard as unhealthy."

Patrick Nally, a former partner of Dasser, is quoted extensively on the German's strategy of wooing the international federations for his company's benefit. Beginning with FIFA, Dasser helped link commercial companies with international federations, so increasing their importance and their competition programmes. Nally explains how officials of the federations received gifts from Dasser.



Nebiolo: criticised

national Sport and Leisure Marketing (ISL), which sold the Olympic emblem of the five interlocking rings to the world's leading international companies. The IOC never put out the contract to tender, and Dasser's ultimate reward was to receive the Olympic order, the highest decoration of the IOC.

Although the book questions whether the people running international sport are suitable, it only makes oblique references to the immense benefit to sport which has flowed from their activities. The huge television fees and sponsorships for the Olympic Games and major international championships have promoted the sports and benefited many athletes themselves, and also helped them fulfil their physical potential. It is true, as the book constantly states, that many administrators have enjoyed first-class travel, constant receptions and lavish dinners and luxury hotels, but they have also developed the sports, and particularly the Olympic Games, in a way that their predecessors before the 1970s refused to contemplate.

□ The *Lords of the Rings* by Vyv Simson and Andrew Jennings (Simon & Schuster: £14.99).

Wattana off-cue to Hendry's profit

By Phil Yates

SHOULD Stephen Hendry regain the title at the Embassy world snooker championship in Sheffield a week today, there is little doubt he will pinpoint the double session of his second-round match with James Wattana yesterday as one of the most important of his campaign.

Hendry, the champion in 1990, converted a 5-3 overnight advantage into a 10-6 lead yesterday and now requires only three of the remaining nine frames when he resumes today in order to reach the quarter-finals. Given Wattana's confident form throughout the latter half of the season, Hendry did not have to play anywhere near his best to move into a commanding position.

Looking strangely hesitant, Hendry lost the opening two frames of the session and, at 5-5, Wattana seemed the stronger of the two. However, Hendry recovered from 0-41 in the next to regain the lead at 6-5 before he stole the twelfth frame on the pink after Wattana had missed it from short range.

Wattana, the subject of a £9,000 cash bet at the Crucible on Saturday to win the

title at odds of 7-1, gave his supporters temporary cheer by convincingly winning the thirteenth frame with breaks of 33 and 56. It was to be the Thai's final success.

A break of 45 enabled Hendry to lead 8-6, and despite a run of 63 from Wattana early in the fifteenth frame Hendry was poised for 9-6 when, after clearing the last red to pink, he jawed the crucial final black from its spot. Left with a straightforward long pot, Wattana missed the black. Hendry did not. He added the concluding frame of the session with runs of 30 and 51.

John Parrott, the defending champion, reached the quarter-finals with a leisurely 13-4 win over Tony Knowles, the No. 16 seed, on Saturday in which he took the last seven frames.

The identity of Parrott's quarter-final opponent was determined when Alan McManus eventually beat Mick Price, 13-10.

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Results, page 23

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LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY APRIL 27 1992

LOOKS
Will the
judges cast off
their wigs at
last?



Anfield gloats as United crack

Liverpool
Manchester United

By Ian Ross

THE divine creator of Manchester United's championship-winning team has been revealed. It is a team of 11 players, each with a unique talent, who have come together to form a formidable and deadly opponent. The team is led by the legendary manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, who has guided the club to glory for over a decade. The players are a mix of experienced veterans and young talents, all of whom have contributed to the team's success. The team's playing style is based on quick, precise passing and a strong defensive backline. They have been able to overcome many challenges and emerge as the champions of the Premier League. The team's success has brought pride and joy to the fans of Manchester United, who have long been known for their loyalty and passion for the club.

Nine days after the Leeds United victory, Manchester United were crowned champions of the Premier League. The team's triumph was a testament to their hard work and dedication. The players and staff of Manchester United are proud to have achieved this feat and look forward to continuing their success in the future. The team's victory has also brought attention to the Premier League, which has seen a significant increase in viewership and revenue since its inception. The league is now considered one of the most competitive and exciting in the world.

On an afternoon in May, a Manchester United player was seen celebrating with his teammates. The player, who had just scored a goal, was being embraced by his fellow players. The scene was a moment of pure joy and triumph for the team. The fans in the stands were also celebrating, cheering and waving flags. The atmosphere was electric. The Manchester United player's goal was the decisive one, securing the team's victory. The player's performance was a key factor in the team's success. He had been in excellent form throughout the season and his goal was a testament to his skill and talent.

After the match, the Manchester United players were seen celebrating with their families and friends. The team's victory was a moment of great pride for everyone involved. The players and staff of Manchester United are looking forward to the future and hope to continue their success. The team's victory has also brought attention to the Premier League, which is now considered one of the most competitive and exciting in the world.

Liverpool's manager, Bill Shankly, was seen celebrating with his players. The team's victory was a testament to their hard work and dedication. The players and staff of Liverpool are proud to have achieved this feat and look forward to continuing their success in the future. The team's victory has also brought attention to the Premier League, which has seen a significant increase in viewership and revenue since its inception. The league is now considered one of the most competitive and exciting in the world.

They have been in excellent form throughout the season and their goal was a testament to their skill and talent. The Manchester United player's goal was the decisive one, securing the team's victory. The player's performance was a key factor in the team's success. He had been in excellent form throughout the season and his goal was a testament to his skill and talent.

What has made Nigel Short (originally from Bolton, but now resident in West Herts, London) so devastatingly effective over the chessboard? Short is a tough pragmatist, self-educated and self-reliant. His physical appearance belies his ruthlessly aggressive and starkly individualistic

off-cue
ry's profil

Paul Yates

So, as we stab our pencils viciously into the blower this Monday morning, I fear that a frightening number of us are considering the vital question of precisely how far it is desirable to go in the sport of making a colleague look like a right prat. Those lately moved on from positions of eminence will widen this to embrace the matter of how — or whether — to do the same to a successor.

If it works, of course, it is marvellous fun for those who enjoy that sort of thing. Your replacement is suddenly no longer perceived as a younger, fitter, more modern dynamo. If he is doing his own thing, he is a traitor and a wastrel, stamping on the seedcorn you planted. If he is carrying on as you did, a few well-chosen words of faint praise will ensure that history will record him as no more than the nodding dog

In Spain today the
best chess player
in British history
will play the
game of his life.
Raymond Keene
analyses a
brilliant career

A 12-year-old boy sits at a chessboard. Facing him is a formidable and deadly opponent. The man is an experienced master player, a man who has beaten one Russian world champion and himself won the British championship ten times. The scene is Brighton, in the summer of 1977. The boy is Nigel Short, the first pre-teenager ever to compete in the British championship, and the hardened veteran is Dr Jonathan Penrose.

After a few moves of play, to the amazement of the onlookers, Penrose offers the boy a draw. To the even greater consternation of those looking on, the boy declines the offer. The game proceeds: first Penrose loses his queen, then, faced with inevitable checkmate, on the 41st move the shattered master concedes defeat.

That sensational game announced the arrival of a new chess prodigy, in the tradition of young geniuses of the calibre of Paul Morphy, José Capablanca and Bobby Fischer. Since his own auspicious debut, Nigel Short has progressed with meteoric brilliance. He has indisputably become the greatest British chessplayer in the history of the game. He has risen to world ranking number three and has been the inspirational leader of the grandmaster-packed English team, spearheading them to three Olympic silver medals, behind only the hitherto dominant Russians.

The culmination of Nigel Short's career so far is his challenge to the living chess legend, Anatoly Karpov, which reaches its dramatic climax today in the semi-final of the World Chess Championship qualifying competition.

Short had a brilliant win in the eighth game. He drew the ninth on Saturday. Today he needs only a draw to become the first Englishman to reach the final of the qualifying competition. There he will play either Jan Timman of Holland or Artur Yusupov, who also play their final tomorrow, with Timman holding the advantage. If Short defeats Karpov, the next task in front of him becomes that much easier since neither of his potential rivals has ever reached the status achieved by Karpov.

Karpov held the world title for ten years, until he was dethroned by the even greater Gary Kasparov seven years ago. Karpov has been involved in every World Championship match for the past two decades, ever since Bobby Fischer retired undefeated in 1972. He is one of the three or four greatest players chess has ever seen — a kind of Jonathan Penrose writ in millennial letters.

What has made Nigel Short (originally from Bolton, but now resident in West Herts, London) so devastatingly effective over the chessboard? Short is a tough pragmatist, self-educated and self-reliant. His physical appearance belies his ruthlessly aggressive and starkly individualistic

approach when in play. Short is tall and slender, hesitant, soft-spoken and mild; not at all the stereotype of the mad genius which Fischer fitted so well.

His career has been studded with glittering successes, first prizes in tournaments and match victories around the world, but there have also been, as distinct from the careers of Kasparov and Karpov, the occasional equally stunning setbacks.

When he was only 14 Short was thrown, by well-meaning chess officials who wanted to encourage and accelerate his progress, into the shark pool of the 1980 London International tournament. The gesture was well-meaning, but with a line-up including the world title challenger, Victor Korchnoi, who was not even able to win clear first prize, such was the strength of the field, Short was unable to avoid a disastrous last place. He was just too young and inexperienced for this murderous field.

Ever since then, in spite of his customary brilliance, there has been a largely concealed, but ever-present, monster of self-doubt croaking faintly but ominously in the background, the concealed fear that such a failure might suddenly and inexplicably resurface.



Brains of Britain: Short plays his first move against Karpov in Linares. Victory today will put him through to the final, which he should win. Then he would take on Kasparov, the world champion

What has been Nigel Short's grand strategy in the match? Both he and Karpov, as opposed to the brilliantly destructive Kasparov, are architectonic players, pure stylists who seek to expose and make visible the inner harmonic workings of the dynamic interplay of the pieces. Where others would simply see a discordant chaos of clashing chessmen, Short and Karpov perceive almost infinitely beautiful patterned networks. In the past, Short has laid the accent on such pure thought, the superiority of his thinking apparatus over that of his opponents. But defeating Karpov required a new dimension of combat. Physical, as well as mental, fitness now became of vital importance — it may even have proved to be the deciding factor.

For the Linares showdown, the 26-year-old Short was determined to be at the peak of physical strength. The plan was to play longer games and wear down his 41-year-old (and slightly paunchy) opponent. The war of attrition, to drain Karpov's energy, would suddenly transform into a blitzkrieg

marriage to a beautiful and elegant Greek drama-therapist, Rea Karageorgiou. The birth last year of a baby daughter, Kivi, seems finally to have cemented Nigel Short's belief in his own destiny. Significantly, he has rented a private flat in Linares, in preference to the hotel suite offered by the organisers, and he is accompanied there by his entire family, as well as his assistant and mental guru, Lubosh Kavalek.

when the former champion was suitably enervated. This did, indeed, happen. Games three, four and five of this 10-game match were mind-exhausting marathons, but then Short struck to take games six and eight with lightning victories. Chess may seem all in the mind, but the mind is connected to the body.

The challenge to Karpov took place in the Andalusian city of Linares in southern Spain. Linares is famous for two other things apart from chess. It was the birthplace of Hannibal, the wife of Hannibal, and the city also boasts a fountain from which Hannibal is reputed to have drunk. Local legend has it that those who, emulating the Carthaginian general, drink from this fountain, will inevitably return.

Since the final of the World Championship qualifying tournament will also be held in Linares next January, I am sure Nigel Short is taking the precaution of downing a daily draught.

The prestige at stake is enormous, but there is also the little matter of the 300,000 Swiss Francs on offer as a prize purse. Short will scoop the lion's share of this. Indeed, having stormed the international chess heights, Short is on the threshold of becoming one of Britain's select millionaires to have deprived their fortune solely from prowess at sport. He will be the only one to have climbed so far on the ladder of financial reward through success in a sport where the primary battlefield is the mind.

How much money could Short potentially earn from chess? The prize purse escalates off the Richter scale as the World Championship cycle progresses. The pot of gold at the end of the chess rainbow beckoning Short is a staggering £2.5 million. This is the prize fund, divided solely between champion and challenger, on offer for the World Championship match against Gary Kasparov himself, to be held in Los Angeles next year.

In spite of his unique achievements, Nigel Short suffers from a curious lack of recognition by the public in his own country. When even relatively minor successes against foreign opposition in boxing — Frank Bruno's win last week, for example — are celebrated as front page news, the stunning fact that a British chess grandmaster appears for the very first time to be progressing towards a world title challenge, does not even merit a ten-second nightly mention on the television news.

between first prize and top of the also-rans. Kasparov has seemed invulnerable and invincible. Yet his nimbus of invincibility is increasingly being dispelled by disrespectful rivals. At a tournament in Dortmund, concurrent with Short's challenge in Linares, Kasparov has suffered the indignity of losing both to the brash teenager, Gata Kamsky (USA, formerly USSR) and the veteran German, Robert Hübner, who, at the other end of the scale, is almost 20 years Kasparov's senior.

Assuming that, having passed the test of fire represented by overcoming Karpov, Short progresses through the final of the qualifier, then a challenge against Kasparov next year would stand every chance of success. Nigel Short could truly become the first British World Chess Champion. He would thus revive, at a stroke, the glories of British chess of the mid-19th century. Then, players such as

Howard Staunton and Joseph Henry Blackburne kept Britain at the forefront of world chess and Simpson's-in-the-Strand, now a famous traditional restaurant, became a congregating point for every master and champion. With Nigel Short as World Champion, London would replace Moscow as the capital of chess.

Raymond Keene is chess correspondent of The Times. His book Nigel Short: World Chess Challenger is published this month by Batsford at £10.99.

INSIDE

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The subtle arts of the office underminer

WORKING LIFE

Libby Purves, down
among the
backstabbers



over and says it aloud in a fatherly way, making sure of a large and influential audience first. If you are in his old chair, he will say that he "used to have trouble with those fiddly little orders — in the first couple of weeks", having first made sure that you have been struggling with the bastards for at least six months. Matily, he may tell you how much harder it was before he "shook out the system".

That is the subtle stuff. Underminers can, left unchecked, develop far wilder strategies. Some, heading for redundancy anyway, develop a reckless and anarchic sense of humour. In a news office where I once worked dwelt a very self-confident woman day editor, whom we shall call Jessica. OK, Jessica was just that bit too confident, especially to sufferers from the endemic news department hang-over. But it was mean, very mean, of certain colleagues to play the earthquake trick on her so often.

This consisted of bustling into the office at the start of one's shift — the middle of hers — and saying "What are we doing on the earthquake, Jessica?" (or the coup, or the volcano). She would invariably snap back: "Oh — no sweat — we're across it." The point of the exercise was, as you have guessed, that there hadn't been an earthquake (or coup, or volcano) anywhere in the world. The fun lay in watching Jessica sidling unobtrusively over to the discarded pile of agency news and searching for clues with increasing panic. Once, everyone else left the room so we could peer in through the glass panel in the door and watch her going into solitary overdrive by the Telex machine. "Like a demented hamster shredding its bedding," as one colleague

admirably put it. No, of course it's not funny. Very unedifying.

But as even prime ministers know, for serious mischief it is necessary to look to the disgruntled emeritus holder of one's own job. Such is the mischief available, indeed, that rules and customs have evolved in most fields to prevent it. I believe that when medieval abbots retired they had to go far away, preferably to an offshore islet, and maintain a vow of silence.

And look at the Queen Mother: seems to have liked the Queen job, lost it prematurely, but has never in four decades tossed one single ball-bearing under her daughter's steady feet. Admirable.

Retired judges used to be models of silence, too, muttering only to their wives and roses. It is only lately that (fired by canny hacks at the *Spectator* and suchlike) they have started causing trouble.

Recorded history shows that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, which an emeritus can say in public which will help his or her successor. Except perhaps "Gosh, I was never as good as he is". And that would be asking too much. Of anyone.

TOMORROW
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Dress minimal, stay the course

Cher is one of the most durable acts in showbiz, but is the strain of pretending to live out her fans' fantasies beginning to tell?

Alan Jackson met the singer as she prepared for a British tour

Cher wrote a fan letter to Oliver Stone recently. Having seen the director pilloried by much of the US establishment for the content of his film *JFK*, she wanted to send him a message of support. Forget the critics and all the grumbles emanating from Washington, she told him: it was the most important movie made in her lifetime, something the American people needed to see. Subsequently, over dinner, Stone confessed that he was finding the going tough, never having been the subject of such direct personal criticism before. "Hey, I've had a lifetime of it," Cher responded. "Don't ever let that stuff change what you do."

But after almost three decades in the media from line herself, the 45-year-old star admits that her own self-image is in need of sustenance. "Okay, a cure for cancer isn't in my bag of tricks, but I need to do work that's more worthwhile," she says, restless amid the silk upholstery of a Knightsbridge hotel suite. "Sometimes I just don't feel proud of what I've achieved. Not that I'm ashamed either, but I guess I expect more of myself. I think, 'Some day soon you'll do something worthwhile, something that's really great.'"

We have long since become accustomed to Cher as chameleon — and today's wig is frothy, orange and vast. Doubt and disillusionment, however, are not emotional hues often associated with her. Her roller-coaster of a career began with the pop success of her Sixties partnership with then-husband Sonny Bono, and has included spells of well-paid solo work in Las Vegas lounges, an unexpected late blooming as a gifted stage and film actress, and her subsequent return to the charts as an under-dressed rock siren. Now it seems that the strain of living out a public fantasy is beginning to tell.

"Sometimes I'm not sure if I want to be Cher any more," she shrugs. "Sometimes I do know that at times it's great and I love it, but at other times it's completely horrible and I hate it. No in-

between. It has only those two extremes. The bad part is that I don't get any privacy, that I can't have a relationship without the person that I love being reduced to some toy-boy headline, that people go through my garbage. After a while, it really wears you down."

An intelligent woman much given to frank self-assessment ("I'm not a good singer, I'm just okay," and so on), she has an image that continues to be shaped by her fondness for appearing at public functions in the tacky and extremely minimal creations of costume designer Bob Mackie. Never was this wilfulness more evident than when she chose some glittering cobweb of a dress in which to accept her 1987

'I don't have to be in the best taste. I can do whatever I want'

Best Actress Oscar for *Moonstruck*. Amid the discreet Armani and Valentino outfits at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, she stood out in glorious self-parody. In so doing, she rubbished the theory that she would be meekly grateful at being welcomed in from the critical cold. "That was a kind of hearty two fingers to Hollywood," she smiles. "It was said that the reason I didn't get a nomination for *Mask* was because of the way I dress; so I just wanted to let everyone know that I was here, that I was here to stay, and that I would be dressing in my own choice of clothing. It shouldn't be about playing the game. Artists are supposed to be different, to be without boundaries. I don't have to be in the best taste. I can do whatever I want."

More than just her wardrobe separates Cher from her acting peers, however. In a working community prone to treating artists as just another realm of self-promotion, she finds herself shrinking away from involvement in formal politics. "I used to be

happy that I was a Democrat, but I couldn't care less any more. It's just another form of showbusiness."

"I don't know what it's going to take to make things different. I look around where I live now and it's like Bombay. You see old men and women pushing their belongings around in shopping carts and you wonder, 'How did this come about? Where was I when all this happened?' But most of all, I wonder where the government was."

"Okay, nothing bad has happened to me. But what sort of person can feel good when there are so many people who are doing really badly? There's no way I deserve the money I make, and the artists who earn much more than me don't deserve it either. But if the rules are made before you join the game, it's a question of what good you do with what you've got. I give a lot of my money away. I do a lot for charities. If that implies that I feel guilty about my wealth then yes, I guess I do."

Of all the public figures who have aligned themselves with causes, she most admires Vanessa Redgrave and Jane Fonda, and hopes that she herself would be prepared to risk career and public affection for an issue she felt strongly about. Meanwhile, it is the twin pulls of her film and music commitments that occupy Cher's thoughts. Having re-established her chart career with a series of bravura rock ballads — and her biggest ever British hit, last year's good-humoured remake of "The Shoop Shoop Song", from the soundtrack of the film *Mermaids* — she is looking forward to going back to the movies.

Her pet project is a planned reprise of 1944's *The Enchanted Cottage*, in which Dorothy McGuire and Robert Young played disgraced lovers who become beautiful to each other as their romance grows. She has just commissioned a rewrite of the script. "It's about the transforming power of love — interiors rather than exteriors," she says.

For now, though, there is the small matter of her European tour and the six British stadium dates that begin in Glasgow later this



The chameleon as under-dressed siren: "Sometimes I'm not even sure what being Cher is"

week. If left to her own devices, she claims she would walk out in sweatpants and a T-shirt to sing songs by Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt and Bob Seger. But that is not what we have come to expect from Cher and nor is it what the tickets — emblazoned as they are with a view of her fishnet-clad rear — promise. "I think people are looking for

me to be a certain way and would be disappointed if I were otherwise," she evaluates, pointing out that MTV declined to screen two successive videos in which she remained resolutely dressed. "It distracts and entertains, and makes life more festive for that specific moment." But might not her fans enjoy a glimpse of the real person,

rather than the extreme character she began cultivating almost 30 years ago to compensate for her shyness? "I don't know," she says doubtfully, slowly shaking her head. "I really don't know."

Cher appears at Glasgow SECC on Thursday and Friday, Birmingham NEC on May 3 and 4, and Wembley Arena, London on May 6 and 7.

ARTS BRIEF

Galloping off screen

PETER Greenaway's long-planned film *55 Men on Horseback* has been put on the back burner, partly because of its proposed length. The script would need seven hours of screen time. Instead, Greenaway will press ahead this July with *The Baby of Macon*, a period film (set in 1650) about the control and exploitation of a newly-born child. The marathon *55 Men on Horseback* will probably gallop back into view as a television series, trimmed to a mere six hours.

Giants of the stage

FORMER Monty Python star Terry Jones has written a musical of typically flamboyant scope. Called *Gargantua*, it is based on a Rabelais story about the king of the giants. A West End opening is planned for the autumn, replete with "acrobatics, juggling, still-walking and giant puppets."

Jose among dons

JOSE Carreras is to sing in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The recital by the Spanish tenor, on June 22, will benefit The Prince's Trust and The Prince's Youth Business Trust. The Prince of Wales will be present.

Six of the best

PENDING approval from Equity, the American actress Stockard Channing is poised to reappear in London her acclaimed Broadway performance in *Six Degrees of Separation*. John Guare's hit play arrives at the Royal Court Theatre in June. Channing won a Tony nomination last year for her portrayal: she plays a Manhattan society matron whose life is transformed by a conman.

Last chance...

TOUTED as a class act among British pop singers, Julia Fordham is a polished performer with an unusually elegant vocal style who has enjoyed her greatest success in overseas markets. Perhaps her songwriting lacks the necessary sparkle; significantly, her most successful British hit, the delicate "Love Moves in Mysterious Ways", was written by the veteran team of Dean Pitchford and Tom Snow.

Her current British dates were interrupted by a visit to Japan, where her reputation is especially high. With a mellifluous seven-piece band in tow, she closes her British tour at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (071-589 8212) on Friday.

Marcus Binney profiles the Greek architect chosen to design Magdalen College's new quadrangle

Oxford builds on classical principles

Mention a new building in classical style and words like pastiche, copy or fake trip off a thousand tongues. But there is nothing deceitful about the work of Demetri Porphyrios, the Greek-born, American-educated architect who is now engaged in the delicate task of extending one of Oxford's most renowned colleges.

His brand of classicism is marked, not surprisingly, by a distinctly Grecian quality. This is manifested in simplicity and restraint, a very correct use of Greek decorative motifs, and above all the distinctive shallow Greek pediment.

When he was 18 Porphyrios left Greece to study art history in the United States. He ended up at Princeton studying architecture. But his interest in classical remains was sparked not by Princeton but by the great Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Porphyrios wrote a doctorate thesis on his work and went to Finland to work in Aalto's office. "He knew any temple and spoke eight languages fluently. He addressed me in Greek. He'd ask me about a temple and I wouldn't know the answer. I was so embarrassed, being Greek."

Now, however, Porphyrios is an authority on ancient architecture. His learning is worn lightly in his wide-ranging book, *Classical Architecture*, recently published by Academy Editions.

He came to England to teach at the Architectural Association at the same time as Leon Krier, who planned the Prince of Wales's village at



Demetri Porphyrios's extension to Magdalen College, Oxford, consists of 75 student rooms and a small theatre

Poundbury. "Two things have grown on me here. First the weather. I thought it would be awful to live without blue sky. Here the sky changes every minute; it's amazing. For me the palette was stone, marble and render. Brick seemed ridiculous. Now I can't imagine using anything else."

The project now occupying him and his team of 12

assistants is an extension to Magdalen College, Oxford, consisting of 75 new student rooms and a small theatre. "From a short list of 12 they selected two projects: Ian Ritchie's and mine. His was super-modern, mine super-traditional. They had a debate and chose our scheme by a 3-1 majority. Then the students voted overwhelmingly for us."

The governing body began

by asking him how he would feel about designing a building that would last 300 years or more. "I can't believe the words you are saying, I told them," Magdalen, he realised, was singular in two ways. "First, there were no additions of the 1950s and 1960s; second, there was only one complete quad. The rest were all open on one side."

One concern was to break

the accommodation down into several smaller buildings. "Today architects are constantly making buildings bigger. But buildings can only grow so much. There is what Aristotle called 'the measure of things'."

The style of the student building is the gabled Cotswold vernacular, common in 17th century Oxford. The theatre, by contrast, is Gre-

cian, though in simplified form. "For me there is one continuous line rising from vernacular to classicism. I see no contradiction in combining the two. Your vernacular buildings are some of the most beautiful you have: minimum decoration but beautiful proportions."

He avoids introducing temple architecture, with its columns and rich entablatures. "If you try to use full-blown Hellenic, Roman or Renaissance architecture today, it quickly gets dated. Temple architecture is full of symbolism that we have lost."

Perfection comes instead through well chosen materials and traditional load-bearing walls. He has gone with college administrators to quarries to choose the stone — probably a mix, so the buildings do not look monolithic. Porphyrios, though himself attacked sometimes violently for what his critics call "facadism", professes that he is not against Modernism. "It's not a question of who will win. The world can accommodate both views." Who are his kindred spirits? "People in Spain, Scandinavia and the States. People who cherish traditional materials and methods of construction."

Modernism, he says, produces buildings but cannot produce a city. "I have come across no one who does not like Venice. Florence, the traditional aspect of 18th or 19th century London, or the centre of Paris. By inverse thinking I conclude that this is a model for us."

Branagh scores a palpable hit

Where were you on the day they assassinated Kenneth Branagh's reputation? I was in a newspaper office (not this one) and I seem to recall a precise moment when the scent of blood turned a group of otherwise reasonable human beings into a Get Branagh wolfpack.

He was simply too successful, too energetic, too talented, too nice and — worst of all — too young to be tolerated any more. The boy had to be taken down a peg, and the residual desire to do so again is still there. Thus it was that his reward for assembling an astonishing cast to perform a wholly respectful and interesting *Hamlet* for Radio 3 yesterday has not been a nation's gratitude, but a snide brush-off. Forget Henry V, Hollywood and the Renaissance Theatre Company: even now they are telling Branagh to go play in the bedroom and stop bothering the grown-ups.

I am sorry to be unfashionable, but I thought the lad done good yesterday. His radio *Hamlet* began at a rattling ghost-story canter and worked itself up into a gallop. This was "Hamlet: The Thriller", more than "Hamlet: The Tragedy", and all the fresher for that.

Branagh's own performance sustained the mood. He has always known that any Shakespearean role he took on would be compared with that of the good late Lord Q, but he knows how to avoid the odious business too. As with the big speeches in *Henry V*, Branagh handled the *Hamlet* soliloquy with non-declamatory intimacy, pushing through it to the next point in the play rather than lingering.

He was in good company, of course, with Judi Dench, Michael Williams, Richard Briers, the Thompsons Emma and Sophie and Derek Jacobi in the cast, and with John Gielgud, the father of all modern *Hamlets*, at his armoured-rattling finest. The unnamed studio engineers who presided over the recording deserve a curtain call, too. Dramatic pace on radio is largely dependent on the nimble fingers of the stereo sound mixer, and this one had you turning your head to follow the action more often than a

season-ticket holder at Wimbledon.

The constant movement and speed was not only entertaining, it was vital. This was the full, three hour and 55 minute version, replete with all the bits only GCSE students know. Radio 3, unlettered by minimal attention spans and fixed-point news bulletins, is possibly the last stage on earth (together with its spin-off audio tapes) that can give such plays as *Hamlet* their full measure.

In doing so, however, the network did play into the hands of the Branagh-bashers. Once there was a time when the BBC made little of the fact that Great Actors would slip into its studios for a few days and even fewer pounds to knock off a decent bit of work. It was simply accepted that radio offered our finest talent the opportunity to do things not always available to them in the commercial world.

Now, feeling the ever more pressing need to persuade governments that it should be left intact, the BBC turns such productions into Events, leaving poor Branagh looking as though he is either pulling a publicity stunt or coming down from his mountain to do the BBC's favour.

Tonight, incidentally, Radio 3 relays Perry Porriac's beautifully judged spoof, *Hamlet Part II*, which has Peter Jeffrey returning to Elsinore from diplomatic duties abroad, to be told by the court librarian (Hamlet) Walter, that virtually everybody in the country is stabbed, poisoned, drowned or heartbroken.

Enter Simon Russell Beale, a Fool, confirming what many of us have always secretly thought about Shakespearean comedies — that they are not all that funny — after which Jeffrey and Walter get down to working out who is next in line to the Danish throne. "I know," says Walter, versing blankly, "there's this bloke in Scotland who was Hamlet's mother's sister's boyfriend's mother's uncle's cousin, on the wrong side of the sheet. He'll do. A goodly knight, name of Macbeth."

PATRICK STODDART

TELEVISION REVIEW

Dim memories cloud the rising sun

The latest foreign explorers booked their passage in last night's BBC 2 Assignment documentary. It was titled "Unfortunate incidents" as a nod to the terminology used by Japanese officials to describe such horrors as the Rape of Nanking, when up to 300,000 may have been killed by the invading Japanese.

Because of such euphemisms, Japanese youngsters are baffled when they pack their Gucci suitcases and head for Asia only to find a chilly welcome. The Assignment crew chanced upon three young Japanese tourists in Singapore who came across a memorial service to those who died when Japan conquered the island during the second world war. The girls did not even know Japan had taken Singapore, let alone killed thousands there.

A Japanese teacher, visiting Singapore, also admits that "the Japanese know little about what Japan did in the war. They neither know nor care how the Japanese behaved. Blame the govern-

ment. They've never wanted to inform us." These were painful scenes. Two old Japanese soldiers and a local government official were willing to speak. They told how women would be raped, then bayoneted; how villagers would be killed before soldiers made camp; how Japanese soldiers themselves were expected to commit suicide rather than surrender, beaten daily to strengthen their spirit.

Survivors of the huge pos-

es of Korean girls towed through Asia to "comfort" Imperial soldiers, accommodating up to 50 a day, recalled how colleagues would be killed with a bullet through the vagina if they caught VD, or had their breasts sliced off if they failed to please.

Japanese officials still get tongue-tied when asked why Japanese children learn of the horrors of Hiroshima, and thus believe the Japanese were innocent victims, but know nothing of Nanking or comfort women. When Japan was a backwater, Tokyo's

behaviour was a curiosity. But now Japan runs the world's second largest military budget (even though it has technically renounced war), and it itches for a bigger say in world affairs.

Tokyo's cynicism about its war record fuels fears that Japan might one day again turn into a military dragon. Every country has committed atrocities; acknowledging them is part of repenting. A remilitarised Japan seems unlikely. But many of Japan's neighbours feel that without a more honest approach to its past, doubts will linger about Japan's future. It is a heavy burden for Tokyo's modern ambassadors to bear.

JOE JOSEPH

A marriage of pleasure

Iran's religious leaders find a Koranic answer for the frustrated

One consequence of this month's Iranian election result is that the number of marriages will increase. Hashemi Rafsanjani's government, now returned to power, has long campaigned to secure respectability for the controversial practice of *sighah*, which means a "pleasure" or "temporary" marriage. They can last anything from one hour to 99 years.

Banned by the late shah and looked down on by rival Sunni Muslims as legalised prostitution, *sighah* is claimed by leading Iranian Shia clerics to have the blessing of the prophet Mohammed.

With the holy Koran as their guide, Shia men and women may enter into a legal contract in which the man pays the woman and she becomes his "wife" for a specified period. The contract, which sometimes states the number of times intercourse is to take place, can be agreed orally or signed in front of a mullah.

What might shock liberal clergymen in the West is widely supported by leaders of the Islamic revolution, even by the most influential daughter of the Ayatollah Khomeini, Zahra Mostafaei, the head of Iran's Women's Association. "Those who practice the custom... are considered to follow a divinely recommended way in order to satisfy some 'natural' needs," explains Shahla Haeri, in her book *Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Iran* (I.B.Tauris, £11.95). "Not only is temporary marriage not considered immoral from a religious and legal point of view, it actually is perceived to combat corruption and immorality."

One Tehran lawyer likened *sighah* to a car rental contract, providing the male with exclusive sexual rights for the period stated. The object was sexual enjoyment and it was to be distinguished from *nikah*, or permanent marriage, whose main aim was procreation.

The conditions of "pleasure marriages", tens of thousands of which take place every week, are heavily weighted in favour of men. But the concept is also supported by some women, notably widows and divorcees who face (as do all Iranians) heavy penalties for having sex outside marriage but who find

it hard to make a permanent marriage, as Iranian men prefer virgins.

A man can break the contract whenever he chooses, while a woman cannot. She can only perform *sighah* with a Muslim, while a man can also have temporary marriages with Jews and Christians. A man may have as many temporary marriages as he wishes in addition to his four permanent wives and is not responsible for the upkeep of a "pleasure wife". A Muslim woman can have more than one temporary husband, but must let two menstrual cycles pass before securing a new one to ensure she was not made pregnant.

The two main reasons for the government campaign to secure respectability for *sighah* are the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88 and Iran's economic crisis. The war widowed hundreds of thousands of Iranian women. They were shunned as potential wives in permanent marriages, and yet were not able to have sex legally.

Economic crisis means that marriage is beyond the means of huge numbers of young jobless Iranians facing dire frustration because of the punishments laid down for sexual relations outside marriage.

"Shia Ulama (holy men) assume that by making sexual satisfaction attainable within a legal framework, human libidinal desire is contained and social order is maintained," Ms Haeri says. It is not uncommon in Iran, where men and women are barred from touching in public to hear *sighah* defended as superior to the customs of Europe.

"You have girlfriends," Mr Mostafaei has argued. "All over the world, men have relations outside marriage, why not make it lawful?"

The leading advocate of *sighah* is President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He has warned that if temporary marriage was "not made common and the stigma is not removed, our society will not be able to satisfy the sexual needs of many Muslims."

CHRISTOPHER WALKER
NEW FEATURES

A love affair or even a cigarette can get you fired in America. Is Big Brother coming here? James Bone reports

Too close for the company



A working romance: Spencer Tracy and long-time partner Katharine Hepburn in *Woman of the Year*

The company which sacked high-flier Helen Zao for having an affair with her married boss was "wrong" and "old fashioned" according to a ruling by an industrial tribunal last Friday. It was "completely unreasonable" to cite a discrete office affair as grounds for dismissal, chairman David Milton told the Singapore-owned Times Printers Ltd.

But in the United States, which rarely finds itself described as old fashioned, employers have the right to fire workers for any behaviour they dislike, in or out of the office. With Britain traditionally said to lag ten years behind America, the Big Brother approach, where companies can control your personal life, could yet intrude on working practices here.

Thousands of American companies ban smoking even off duty, or refuse to employ people who eat too much. An increasing number conduct compulsory drug-testing and many frown on romantic liaisons in the office.

In a famous case in 1984, a rising star at IBM was fired because she refused to stop dating a colleague who moved to a rival computer firm. A jury in San Francisco awarded the woman, Virginia Rulon-Miller, damages of \$300,000 (£172,400) for wrongful dismissal.

The case was celebrated in America because it was the exception, not the rule. Ms Rulon-Miller won only because IBM had issued policy guidelines guaranteeing to respect the privacy of its employees.

"America has the rule of employment that says you can hire or not hire anyone you want and you can fire them for any reason under the sun," explains Lewis Medley, a labour lawyer who heads the Workplace Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. "Unless there is a law that says they can't fire you, they can fire you even if they just do not like your private life."

This election year in America has spotlighted one political romance raising obvious problems of conflict of interest. Mary Matalin, the political director of President Bush's election campaign, and James Carville, the chief strategist of Mr Bush's main rival Bill Clinton, are described as "Washington's oddest couple". The *Washington Post* claimed last December that senior Republicans, fearing security breaches, asked Ms Matalin to keep her distance from Mr Carville for the duration of the campaign, but Mr Carville dismisses it in the present tense and friends are sceptical that the political head has prevailed over the heart.

The main restrictions on the American employer's right to hire and fire are civil rights and equal employment laws, which ban discrimination on the basis of race or gender, as they do in Britain. But an increasing number of states are now adopting so-called "lifestyle discrimination statutes" to offer workers some limited protection.

Since American employers have to bear the burden of health insurance for their workers in the absence of a national health system, most lifestyle discrimination is directed against workers who engage in unhealthy behaviour.

Companies have been known to refuse to hire people who ride motorcycles or go hang-gliding. But the two main categories of targets are fat people — who enjoy some legal protection under laws to prevent discrimination against the handicapped — and smokers. Sixteen of the 20 lifestyle discrimination statutes so

far adopted by American states ban only discrimination against workers who smoke outside the workplace.

In states where there is no such protection, the consequences for the smoking worker can be drastic. Janice Bone of Wabash, Indiana, for instance, never smoked at work. But that was not enough to satisfy her employer, the Ford Motor Box Corp, which discovered nicotine in her urine in a routine drug test and dismissed her from her job. Since Indiana offered her no legal protection, she got a new job at a video store where she could smoke all day long.

In another recent case in the state, a man named David Winn was fired

because his testotaller employer learnt that he had visited a bar and drunk some beer on a Saturday night. Only Colorado has a state law preventing employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of their behaviour outside the office, providing it is legal.

If the off-duty activity is illegal, such as drug use, there are even fewer laws offering protection. A survey by the American Management Association showed that almost two-thirds of the companies that responded now test their workers for illegal drugs. Workers can legally be fired for refusing to take a drug test.

After a recent crash on the New

York subway believed to have been caused by a drunk train-driver, Congress ordered all four million transportation workers in America to undergo drug testing in what the Air Line Pilots Association described as "police state tactics". Only Rhode Island, Connecticut, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont and Iowa have legislation restricting who can be tested and how. In most states, the law does not even require the drug test to be performed correctly.

With such limited protection for off-duty behaviour, there is virtually no restriction on what an American employer can tell a worker to do during working hours. Companies

regularly issue dress codes and concern themselves with even the smallest details of comportment.

British companies tend to have gentlemanly unwritten agreements and codes of conduct are rarely enshrined in office doctrine. According to a recent survey by The Communications Group plc 70 per cent of companies have some sort of formal policy on smoking in the workplace — but none of them extend this to non-office hours. Drug testing is still reserved for athletes, horses and greyhounds.

Most companies and professions accept in-house relationships as long as they are conducted in a prudent fashion and the company isn't compromised. Sharing lifts to work and the odd discreet lunch is fine but cavorting around the office arm-in-arm or screaming about whose turn it is to clean the bath out is likely to cause more than just a raised eyebrow. Conducting a relationship with someone from a rival firm is not a dismissable offence, although sharing confidential material could be considered illegal.

The British armed forces and the police do have a code of conduct. "Whether officers are on duty or not they should not behave in a way that would bring discredit on Her Majesty's service," an army spokesman says. "If a married man has an affair,

'America has the rule of employment that says you can hire or not hire anyone and fire them for any reason'

he could be subjected to administrative action and if a single person has an affair with someone's husband or wife the same could apply. These should be a basis of trust between people in the army if they are to go into combat situations together. Two single people from any rank can conduct a decent relationship but that does not include kissing and fondling in public."

Alfred Marks Employment Agency has done one of the few pieces of research on the subject. In a recent survey, it found that office affairs tended not to be one-night stands. More than half the relationships which start at work result in marriage and cohabitation according to a sample of 479 temporary and permanent job applicants. Three in five had experienced at least one affair at work and two-thirds had observed relationships between colleagues. According to a spokesman for British Airways many of the staff marry people they have met on duty.

Sexual harassment is out of the question but a relationship between two consenting adults is fine as long as it is conducted discreetly," he says.

Of those who had had an affair at work, in Alfred Marks's survey, 57 per cent had been involved with a colleague of the same status. Respondents thought relationships did not affect their work performance or the work of their colleagues. Attitudes of senior members of staff towards relationships in the office were mostly neutral. However two in five thought that senior members of staff were slightly disapproving.

She who must be obeyed ... and don't hang about

In Libya last week, brave men
quailed before that most
feared creature of folklore, the
Woman Who Wears You Down

the Woman Who Wears You Down.

There is something strangely reassuring in the discovery that even a masculine Arab civilisation lives in fear of this immovable human force. The Demon they have conjured up in the face of Ms Adie's admirable persistence is one you and I know: the woman who gets her way, fair or foul, in the shop; the old bat with the hearing-aid in *Fawlty Towers*; Lady Bracknell; the irresistible, tongue-lashing authority that was Mrs Thatcher in the days when she sent fellow heads of government out of European Community summits visibly white and shaking, numb as stunned mullets to confront us in the press corps with "Miss Thatcher — hah! C'est affreux!" And far, far back in the annals of all, that Mummy in a temper who makes you clean your room and says, "Look at me when I'm talking to you!"

Well, two things. On one level, clearly, a doughty professional reporter was standing her ground and defending the principle of free transmission of news. Good for her. But on another, the tone of the telex suggests older and darker forces at work. It is impossible to imagine such things being said of John Simpson, or any other man, however difficult he might make things; somehow, they would be able to deal with him.

What we have here is men gripped by terror of that classic figure, the Scold. That most feared creature of folklore, from "clamorous women", and if he couldn't hold his own, who could?

In the 19th century, the medical profession devoted much energy to the restraint of "the wildest and most recalcitrant female maniacs" in asylums, many of whom were undoubtedly as sane as you or I. And here's the rub. Modern feminist analysis holds that scolding, shrewishness, nagging and hectoring are the natural and reasonable response of women to their real

'Far back in every memory lies the Mummy in a temper'

weakness in society. If they had power, they would have magnanimity and restraint. Strong women, even terrifying ones, have always commanded admiration as well as dread: from St Theodosia of Constantinople who in the 7th century found a Roman officer defacing a picture of Christ, abused him roundly and shook the ladder he stood on until he fell off and was killed.

Then she stoned the heretical Patriarch of Constantinople, still "uttering fury", before being killed herself. Or Joan of Arc, not the most restful of people, who bulldozed the Dauphin into doing her will; or all those redoubtable women travellers of the 19th century who never hesitated to fly at obstructive foreigners or languid diplomats.

To modern feminists they are heroines: at the time, one suspects, those dealing with them would probably echo Mr al-Busifi's words, as he increasingly loses his grip of English in his anxiety to be rid of his tormentor.

"Each time she is in Libya she is causing us more and more troubles... we don't appreciate her presence among us, herein we are demanding never ever send Kate Adie to Libya whatever the reasons are."

One likes to imagine that he turned from this communique, wild-eyed, to find smiling grimly at his shoulder, the determined figure of Ms Adie once more. "Look at me while I'm talking to you!"

MARY LANCASTER
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"In one school they had to make a choice between paper and a teacher"

Poised between teaching practice and the real thing, student teachers talk about their experiences in First Appointments, a special section in this Friday's TES.

TES

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Science beneath the microscope

Books by Bryan Appleyard and Mary Midgley have taken a critical look at the idea that science is a panacea. Next month *The Times*, with *Dillons* and *Picador*, is sponsoring a debate on the motion "The Heartless Truths of Science Strip Man of His Spiritual Dignity". For tickets, fill in the coupon.

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Kitted out: a circuit court

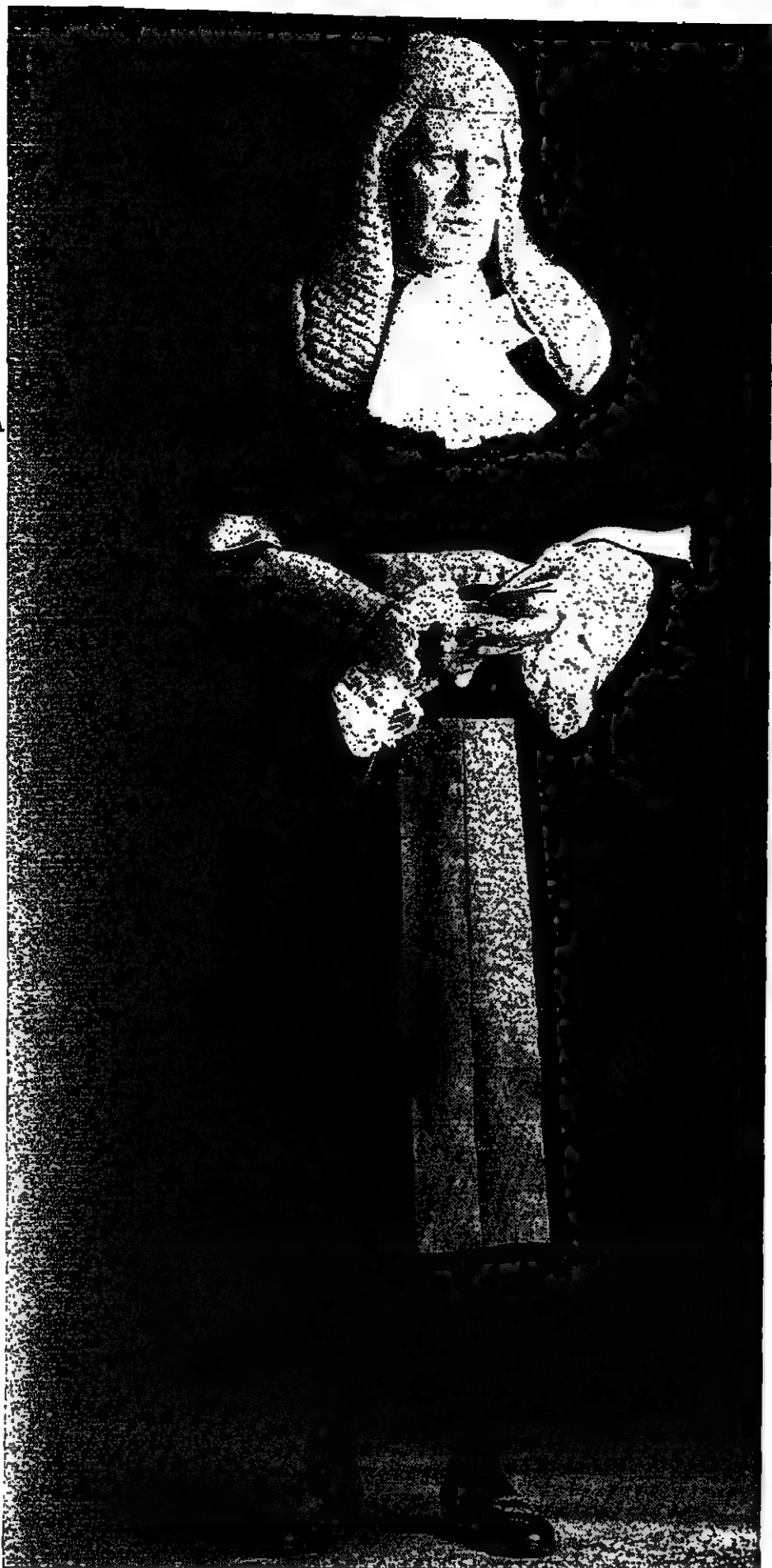
A new book, by

Art m

The book is a collection of essays by a group of artists and writers, including Peter Adam, who has gathered together a comprehensive range of "official" Third Reich art in a new book. We can now see that much of the immense sculpture (clashed horses, 20 times life-size and invincible) on a colossal scale, where as the paintings — by artists loyal to the Reich, who shared the Führer's contempt for "degenerate art" by such as Otto Dix — tend towards mawkish depictions of farm-land, caricatures of Jews as fraudsters and endless portraits of Hitler himself in every sort of uniform, even a suit of armour.

The legacy that Germany cannot bury so easily is the architecture of the period, much of which survives. It is brutal neo-classicism — a sort of last the sort of thing a military regime intent on taking over the world might be relied upon to produce. But much of it is of a high standard.

Hitler often said if he was not destined to be Führer, he would have been an architect. As it was he saw himself as architect of the entire nation, while leaving a group of the actual work to a most compelling Albert Speer. Paul



Kitted out: a circuit court judge, in robe and wig, part of legal dress for over 300 years

Passing sentence on a head of horsehair

Alice Thomson celebrates the threatened craft of making wigs for the legal profession



Finishing touches: a wig maker completes a bar wig for barristers

'The forensic wig needs no powder, no attention, and keeps its fresh smell'

The legal profession has been sporting wigs for the past 300 years, from the powdered dandies of the Regency law courts to the dusty lawyers of Charles Dickens's *The Old Curiosity Shop* and the clean-cut young barristers of today. But does half a pound of the best horsehair perched on the top of your head give you a psychological advantage? Or is it an absurd anachronism?

Tomorrow the judges of the commercial court, part of the High Court's Chancery division, will vote on whether to consign their ritual headgear to the fancy dress box. If they do, the rest of the High Court might well join them, followed by judges in the criminal courts and thousands of barristers.

For many the disposal of wigs would come as a welcome relief from years of itchy scalps. But for the tiny family businesses that make wigs, tomorrow's decision could be catastrophic.

The wig industry dates back to the late 17th century when King Charles II returned from France to claim his throne. Lawyers followed the fashion he had adopted in exile of wearing wigs. After the turn of the 19th century, when wigs fell from favour, bishops stopped wearing them but the legal profession decided to continue.

Early wig makers tended to be individuals working from small rooms or cellars in the inns of court but one company soon established itself and still dominates the wig world, that of Ede and Ravenscroft. Thomas Ravenscroft founded his wig-making business in 1726 when the wearing of wigs was the height of fashion.

The old legal wigs were made of black horsehair that constantly needed frizzing and curling. Maintaining them was a daily task, involving treating them with pomatum, a scented ointment, and then liberally powdering.

In 1822, Humphrey Ravenscroft, grandson of the founder, made the biggest breakthrough in the wig world: he invented the forensic wig, which is still used today. The forensic wig is made of white horsehair with curls that do not uncurl. It needs no powder, no attention, and keeps its fresh smell.

There are three types of forensic legal wig. The first and grandest is the full-bottomed wig which cascades down the shoulders in tight curls, has two ties of horsehair at the back and is used for ceremonies by judges, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the House of Commons. Then there is the bench wig, which is short and gently frizzed all over, and the bar wig, which is worn by barristers.

Being fitted for a wig is a traditional event for the new barrister and most still find themselves going to Ede and

Ravenscroft in Chancery Lane. Inside the mahogany-panelled shop there are showcases containing mementoes such as Lord Erskine's wig. For 200 years barristers have been invited to sign a book when they receive their wig and again if they are made a judge, and the names of Robert Peel, Quentin Hogg and Airey Neave can be found.

William Keen, the managing director, explains the process that still continues in the back rooms of the shop: "Pure horsehair for the wig comes from countries all over the world. It is first treated for anthrax and then cleaned and bleached and a few dark hairs are added. Everything is done by hand. The style is laid down and we don't change it." The wigs are only made to order at a cost of about £350 and, unless they are treated very badly, they should last two or three lifetimes. "One shudders to say what they would have to do but I suppose if

they have had an appalling day, they might kill their wig off," Mr Keen says.

He recommends the wigs be cleaned regularly, depending on how greasy the hair is, but many barristers prefer to wear unkempt wigs as a testimony to their years of service. Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, was renowned for the shambolic state of his head of curls.

The company makes about 900 wigs a year. Three hundred of these are exported to Commonwealth countries. Legal wigs have disappeared in India, Canada, the West Indies and are not obligatory in Ghana but are still worn in many African states, parts of the Far East and Australasia.

If legal wigs do fall from favour Ede and Ravenscroft will survive as it did when the clergy stopped wearing them in the last century. "Our robe-making for royalty, peers, High Court judges, Lord Mayors and knights provide the

large bulk of our work and making wigs is a very costly process. It is just a pity to see the tradition die out," Mr Keen says.

The impetus for dewigging the legal profession has come from Anthony Colman, QC, who is chairman of the Commercial Bar Association, but it reflects a decision taken by the whole committee. "We reckon the time has come when the wearing of wigs is no longer desirable. If there is any need to distinguish between our clients and us, it can easily be done with gowns. Wigs just make us appear pompous and out-of-date," says Mr Colman.

The new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Taylor, has gone on record as being anti-wig. "Judges at a stroke could disarm a good deal of public misunderstanding of the legal profession if we stopped wearing wigs and gowns in court," he said in a recent interview. He prefers something like the American approach, formal suits with scarlet and ermine reserved for ceremonial occasions.

Other members of the anti-wig brigade point to areas of the law where wigs have already been discarded with no miscarriages of justice. Informal dress is worn in the matrimonial courts, where wigs are thought inappropriate to sensitive issues such as divorce. The law lords, who sit in the highest court in the land, wear ordinary business suits.

Many female barristers also resent having to wear them. Caroline Addy, a pupil barrister and a member of the Inner Temple, says: "I think they are a horrendous expense when you start out. I don't think they are necessary and I find them hard to keep on. There is an awful amount of fiddling with hair clips and the men are always worrying they will make them go bald." She feels that barristers should have enough gravitas without having to resort to fancy dress.

Monique Allen, a barrister at the commercial bar, disagrees: "Wigs are a very good way of distinguishing barristers. It shows a dividing line between their role as servants of the court and their everyday role. Police, firemen, and nurses all have uniforms."

Marc Rowlands, a commercial barrister, says: "Sometimes I have to say dreadful things to people and it is easier to say them in a wig."

Correction

The late Captain Woolf Barnato, described as a flying ace ("Just a little Luyens", April 20), was in fact a champion racing driver.

A new book brings together artwork of the Third Reich for the first time

Art mixed with atrocity

The phrase Nazi art remains, for many people, a contradiction in terms. So closely do we associate Hitler's Third Reich with atrocities against mankind and nature that to discuss the aesthetic qualities of the official National Socialist paintings, sculpture, design and architecture is seen to be politically incorrect, if not downright shameful. Until recently, indeed, any such judgments would have been almost impossible because so little of the art is on show.

Germany remains embarrassed by this unwanted heritage. The bulk of nearly 10,000 artworks, many of them bearing swastikas and other Nazi insignia, which were taken to the United States after the war and have since been returned, are locked away in a customs office in Munich, no German museum expressing any desire to exhibit them.

However a documentary maker and author, Peter Adam, has gathered together a comprehensive range of "official" Third Reich art in a new book. We can now see that much of the immense sculpture (largely horses 20 times life-size and invincible Aryan warriors) is simply bad taste on a colossal scale, whereas the paintings — by artists loyal to the Reich, who shared the Führer's contempt for "degenerate art" by such as Otto Dix — tend towards mawkish depictions of farm workers toiling for the Fatherland, caricatures of Jews as fraudsters and endless portraits of Hitler himself in every sort of uniform, even a suit of armour.

The legacy that Germany cannot bury so easily is the architecture of the period, much of which survives. It is monumentalistic — a sort of brutal neo-classicism that is just the sort of thing a military regime intent on taking over the world might be relied upon to produce. But much of it is of a high standard.

Hitler often said if he was not destined to be Führer, he would have been an architect. As it was he saw himself as architect of the entire nation, while leaving most of the actual work to a group comprising Albert Speer, Paul

Ludwig Troost, Hermann Giesler and Fritz Todt. Todt was considered by Hitler, with some justification, as the greatest German architect since the 19th-century neo-classicist Karl Friedrich Schinkel, and an enormous influence on the group as a whole.

Hitler's obsession with triumphalist architecture never left him. Even during his last hours in the bunker he would play with models of unrealised dreams.

Similarly obsessive was Albert Speer, the most prolific of the group. Speer also designed much of the strong and stylish street furniture — columns, lampposts, torches and braziers — as well as the colonnaded avenues, surmounted by ranks of stylised eagles and hung with tens of thousands of long red banners, each bearing a single black swastika within a white circle.

The swastika remains one of the most aesthetically pleasing logos ever devised, but it could

never now be sanitised or reattributed, despite the fact that it was an ancient symbol of good luck — once used by Rudyard Kipling on the covers of all his books — long before being hijacked by the Nazis.

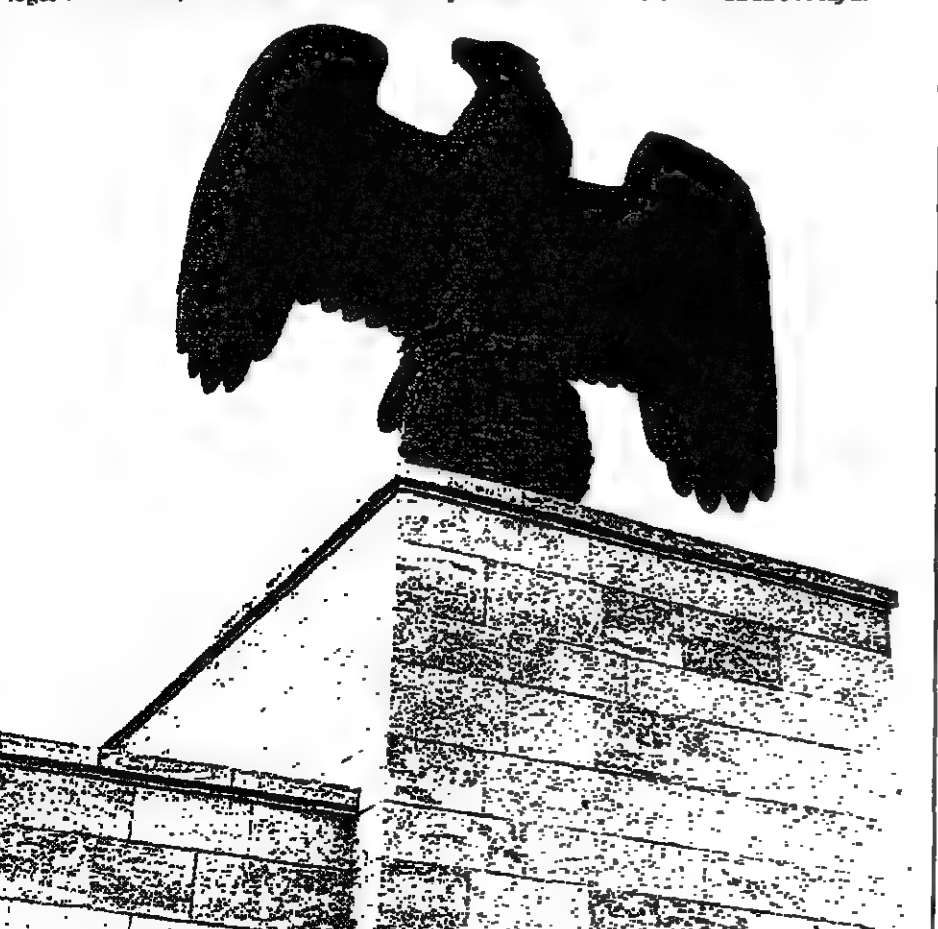
The inherent strength of the design was carried through in all aspects of graphic art. Most of the posters of the period are superb — light years ahead of the mediocrity of more formal art. Great confidence was displayed in everything from bookbindings to tableware, including the design of the infamous uniforms.

But a parallel form of design was also practised throughout the 1930s and until the end of the war. While monumentalism served well the Führer's desire for urban swagger, something altogether different was deemed suitable for the Volk. Most housing and party youth hostels were designed in the vernacular style, with whimsical half-timbered and shuttered elevations, their folksy interiors depending for effect on exposed beams and chamfered ceilings. Here were homes suitable for the blond Master Race.

Aesthetically, most were dreadful. Hitler's own enormous Bavarian chalet, the Berghof, was one of the nastiest, with its bogus old-German peasant-style furniture.

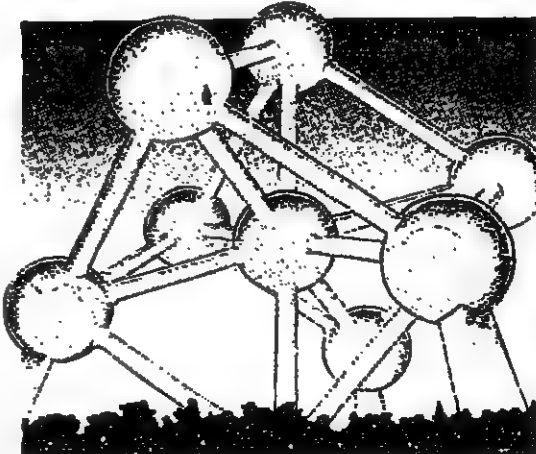
Despite the reluctance of the museums to display Nazi art and artefacts, there is a strong international demand from collectors. According to a London dealer, a swastika on any item raises the price by up to ten times. The even rarer SS flash fetches far more. "I don't think it's the ghastly aspect," he said. "I think it is the design. It is so very pure."

JOSEPH CONNOLLY
The Arts of the Third Reich, Peter Adam, Thames & Hudson, £24.95. The second of Peter Adam's films on Nazi art will be shown on BBC2 on May 2.



In full flight: an eagle at a Nuremberg arena symbolises Hitler's triumphalism

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Wonders of the West Coast

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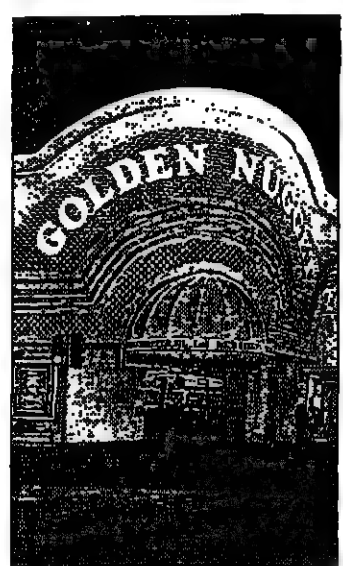
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San Francisco: at once the most beautiful and most tantalising of all the great cities

Laid-back and lovable

San Francisco, after 30 years of intermittent visits, never fails to excite me. *Jan Morris* writes—so full of hope does the city look, so incomparably felicitous on its hills above the sea, like the city of all desires in the closing pages of an allegory. All the more puzzling then that when I actually enter the streets of San Francisco, this time, as always, I find my responses peculiarly ambivalent. The vision lets me down.

There is nothing illusory to the loveliness of the place, but at closer quarters the allegory fades, and something soft, something pallid seems to muffle the excitement. Whenever I come here—more so every time—San Francisco strikes me as being at once the most heart-wrenchingly beautiful and the most tantalising of all the great cities of the world.

Ah, but is it a great city? Certainly the streets look properly metropolitan—boulevards lined with banks, posh stores and hotels where Sinatra sang, neighbourhoods authentically equipped with ethnic eateries and adult bookstores. But the buildings themselves, however imposing, strike me as temporary of feel, buildings without foundations, buildings not made to last. In some obscure and perhaps seismically related way,

San Francisco feels too flimsy to be a metropolis.

Besides, where have all the people gone? Half the city seems uninhabited, as if some impending new catastrophe has emptied it of its residents, leaving only disposable strangers to be swallowed up or incinerated. Even in Union Square on a Saturday evening about the loudest noise is the clanking of the cable car cables in their grooves. Even Broadway at midnight is hardly jam-packed. Even the financial quarter at high noon seems eminently chatable, strollable and ready for lunch.

Like city people everywhere, San Franciscans love to boast of their

traffic problems and crime rates, but to a visitor the pressures of this city seem, if not actually small-town, at least decidedly provincial.

The colours of San Francisco are gentle pastels, not the golds and crimsons of consequence. The light is a washed sea light, filtered always, one feels, through early morning mists. Even the local ocean never seems to me a proper whole-ho-ho-ho-tastic ocean, but is more like a vaster Great Lake, so that surveying its surf-fringed rocks from the heights above, I often catch myself wondering if it really is salt water down there.

They call it all laid-back, and so it is. For my tastes, however, it is a kind of aesthetic betrayal. The city of my dreams, that half-imaginary shining city of the Sonoma road, is anything but laid-back, but blazes always with fires of aspiration. Think of Rio, or Sydney, or Hong Kong, or Manhattan—all cities of glorious visual impact too, but cities as thrilling as San Francisco are when the curtain goes up.

Of all the supremely handsome cities I know, only San Francisco greets you, after the dazzle of its first impression, not with urge, but with relaxation.

• Extracted from an article in *The Times* Saturday Review



City symbol: a cable car

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Collect tokens printed in *The Times* each day

On Saturday Full details and application form will be published

CREME DE LA CREME

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We are a new and expanding American/European Health Care Company looking to recruit the following staff:

Personal Assistant

An exceptional P.A. to work for our Chief Executive. The successful applicant must have outstanding administrative and inter-personal skills and be prepared to assist with all aspects of our business. Previous experience in the Health Care or Financial industry would be advantageous. Secretarial skills of 100wpm shorthand and full working knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1 are essential.

PA/Secretary

PA/Secretary with shorthand of 110/120 wpm and typing 65/70wpm required, with property/financial related experience. Candidates must be fully numerate and computer literate with experience of Lotus 1, 2, 3 and WordPerfect 5.1.

Salaries for both positions will be according to A.A.E. plus Private Health Care. If you feel you possess the high standards we require then please send your CV with a handwritten covering letter together with details of your present salary to:

Kaye Baker
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29 Albemarle Street
London W1X 3FA
NO TELEPHONE CALLS—NO AGENCIES

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47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 071 488 8824 Fax: 071 488 7161

OFFICE MANAGER/PA £20,000
Newly created position within a highly successful High Tech Co. - London. Duties include: managing office staff, liaising with clients, and handling all correspondence. Must be a team player who can communicate at all levels. Age 25-35.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY - MAYFAIR £17,000
Dynamic young marketing Director needs a bright, confident Assistant to join the team. The ideal candidate will probably be a graduate with secretarial skills and ability to initiate and improve new company systems. Must be a team player who can communicate at all levels. Age 25-35.

A START IN THE ARTS £12,000
Bright, young secretary needed to work for prestigious Director in the Arts. Must be a team player who can communicate at all levels. Age 25-35.

Contact Jo Rowan

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Step Up!
£13,000 + bens

Enthusiastic young secretary who is looking to get their career going is needed by thriving international company based in wonderful West End offices. If you like the idea of working for a team of friendly executives where the pace is fun, fast and furious and enthusiasm and hard work is rewarded, this exciting opportunity may be just what you're looking for. Skills: 80/50/wp. Age: 19-24. Please telephone Fiona Marriott on 071-434 4512

Crone Corkill

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International steel trading company requires a hard working individual with knowledge of Russian. Reporting to the chief executive, your job will involve administration of contracts, basic accounts and co-ordination of admin procedures concerned with our worldwide offices. Must have full working knowledge of Wordstar or WordPerfect and Lotus 1-2-3. Previous experience at senior management level is required. Interested parties, please send full CV to the advertiser at Box No. 8340

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Leading West End Commercial Property Consultants

An exciting role has arisen for an enthusiastic secretary to join our busy West End Office. Ideally you will be aged under 30 with excellent audio and typing skills (WordPerfect 5.1). Team spirit and common sense are essential qualities but above all, you must possess a good sense of humour and a willingness to work hard. Good salary will be offered to the right person. Please apply in writing enclosing CV to: Laura Mainstone, Rogers Chapman Plc, Albany Courtyard, 47/48 Piccadilly, London W1V 9AH

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We are looking for a fun, flexible and hard working person to join our team. A Party organiser/Sales Manager, aged 24-40 with previous experience in catering/ party organisation.

Please call Diana on 071 733 8113.

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Required by Senior Partner of small, friendly firm of Chelsea solicitors. Interesting and varied work. Legal experience not necessary but good secretarial skills and pleasant telephone manner essential. Salary dependent on age and experience.

Please write with full CV to: Gill Sinclair, 13 Radnor Walk, Chelsea SW3 4BT

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Board of commuting to the Centre? If so an exciting opportunity has arisen for a sec with sound skills and a good attitude. Must be able to work on Lotus 123 and DW4 to work for this Blue Chip Co.

Call Joyce Agency on 071 287 6080 or Fax on 071 494 4052.

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MERIDIAN

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Good calibre Secretaries needed with exp on WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Word for Windows & DW5. If you have S/H or Audio and good exp on any of the above systems, please call. We offer competitive rates and a good service.

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SENIOR PA FLUENT FRENCH/ENGLISH

£20,000 + bens

This W/E based financial Co seeks a professional PA to the Chairman. Excellent organisational, sec & presentation skills a must. Total involvement in all aspects of the business. French 70wpm preferred. Eng MT.

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SENIOR SEC WITH GOOD SPOKEN JAPANESE £16,000 + BENS

Become fully involved & use your skills in the fast moving world of Japanese business. Excellent salary & benefits. English as well as general sec duties. Full involvement in all aspects of the business. Must be able to speak Japanese. Offered. Must be flexible about 071.

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Senior Secretary to a top manager in a leading financial Co. Excellent salary & benefits. English as well as general sec duties. Full involvement in all aspects of the business. Must be able to speak French. Offered. Must be flexible about 071.

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W/London. Young friendly Co. Excellent salary & benefits. English as well as general sec duties. Full involvement in all aspects of the business. Must be able to speak French. Offered. Must be flexible about 071.

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2nd home, W/London. Young friendly Co. Excellent salary & benefits. English as well as general sec duties. Full involvement in all aspects of the business. Must be able to speak Italian. Offered. Must be flexible about 071.

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Fast Moving, International, Exciting, Demanding, Lucrative and STABLE... Our client, a prestigious investment bank, wants us to meet the top banking PA/Secs in London, in order to produce the best possible shortlist. If the above sounds interesting, and you feel confident that your Board Level experience, professional and charming manner puts you ahead of the competition, please ring Belinda Lighton urgently on 071 726 8491. Skills: Sh useful/60 wpm. Age: 25-38.

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£20,000 p/a + BUPA

30-45 years, fluent French, possibly Spanish or German to work for a director at a small multi-national Equity Capital Investment firm with super award-winning open-plan offices. Previous experience at a senior director level in a commercial or investment banking environment is desirable as is a level of University education. Good communication skills (W/London) & a mix of written & verbal. Excellent communication skills, a warm friendly telephone manner together with good dress sense and ability to work under pressure as a team player, flexibility and initiative together with an outgoing personality are important. No smoking office. No agencies please. Replies in writing to:

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Advent International Plc
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London SW1H 0EE

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Grouping PR Co need experienced, secure efficient Secretary with good sec skills (in: Tabularium) must be happy to do admin, edit, write, produce and proofread "muck in" in San Francisco office and 30 p/a

Salary: £12,000-£14,000 neg. P/a Secretarial Personnel 071-242 2044

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RECEPTION SELECTION

£15,000 p/a with WP skills for data varied job. Duties include: typing 80 wpm, handling all correspondence, and liaising with clients. Must be a team player who can communicate at all levels. Age 25-35.

COURSES

Advertising Sales, International, a small publisher is now recruiting a person to create "right" advertising. £6,000. Call Julie at 071 287 6080

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Want

As disillusioned school governor, quit in drives, a campaign to fill the seats begins

A campaign to attract thousands of new school governors is being launched by the government. The campaign, which is being launched by the government, is aimed at attracting thousands of new school governors. The campaign is being launched by the government, which is aimed at attracting thousands of new school governors. The campaign is being launched by the government, which is aimed at attracting thousands of new school governors.

Some areas will face more difficulties, but new government will be needed in every local authority. The London Borough of Bromley, which pride itself on the amount of support and training it gives governors, estimates that it will need about 400 new governors to keep its total strength at about 1,300. Governing bodies are made up of parents and teachers who are elected, local authority nominees and co-opted governors, who are intended to represent the local community. The National School Governors' Association campaign will include a national governors' week in June and school competitions, entitled Making Governors Visible, designed to encourage more people to serve. Some doubts are already being expressed as to whether enough people will be attracted from outside education. Susan Cornish, who is responsible for governor training in Bromley, says that local governors have decided not to take part in the competition but to mount their own local initiative in an attempt to attract a wider audience.

071-481 1066

EDUCATION

071-481 9313
071-782 7826

POSTS



KING'S SCHOOL BRUTON HEAD

Applications are invited for the post of Head which falls vacant in January 1993 following the appointment of the present Headmaster, A.H. Beadles, to become Headmaster of Epsom College.

Details of the appointment are available from the Clerk to the Governors, King's School, Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0ED. Tel: 0749-813326.

The closing date for applications is 22nd May 1992.

NEWLAND HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL TWICKENHAM

HEAD

Applications are invited for the post of Head of this IAPS day school with over 400 boys and girls. The post will become vacant at the end of 1992. Particulars and an Application Form are available from The Secretary to the Governors, Newland House School Trust Ltd., 32-34 Waldegrave Park, Twickenham, Middx. TW1 4TQ. CLOSING DATE for return of completed applications 29 May 1992.

KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW
KINGSTON LAW SCHOOL

Lecturers/Senior
Lecturers in Law

Salary: up to £25,338 pa inc

The Kingston Law School wishes to appoint Lecturers in Law for permanent appointments starting on 1st September 1992, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The successful candidates will teach on the LLB degree course and on other courses in the Polytechnic.

Applicants should have an honours degree in Law and/or be a qualified barrister or solicitor. We are prepared to adopt a flexible approach to employment terms and will be happy to receive applications from applicants interested in job-sharing or those wishing to be considered for a half-time or other fractional appointment or for a fixed-term appointment.

Informal enquiries may be made to the Head of School, Professor Robert Upex on 081 547 7323.

For further details and an application form please contact the Personnel Department, Kingston Polytechnic, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2EE. Telephone 081 547 7153, quoting reference nos JS 179/T. Closing date for applications 15th May 1992.

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DENSTONE COLLEGE

Utteter, Staffs
The Council of Denstone College invites applications for the post of

BURSAR

of the College and of Smallwood Manor Prep School.
Details and application form from:
Woodard Schools
14A The Square, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LN
Tel: (0743) 356038 Fax: (0743) 241428

Closing date for applications: 5th May

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Public Appointments: Creative & Media Appointments

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Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, Commercial Property: with editorial.
THURSDAY
General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science & Technology, with editorial.
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La Crème de la Crème: Secretarial Appointments.
FRIDAY
International Appointments: Overseas Opportunities.
Motors: The complete car buyer's guide with editorial.
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Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line. Rates are: Lineage £5.50 per line (Min. 3 lines, only first word in bold); Boxed Display £30 per single column centimetre (Min. 3 centimetres); Court & Social £10 per line. Saturday Review Colour £38 per single column centimetre. All rates are subject to 17.5% VAT. Telephone our Classified Advertising Department on 071-481 4000 between 9am-6pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday, late evening 7.30pm on Thursday, or send to: Classified Advertising Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd., P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

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DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN STUDIES

The Institute of European Studies has recently been established to co-ordinate interdisciplinary studies of the continent of Europe, and particularly the relationship between the European Community and the continent as a whole. Applications are invited for the post of Director of the Institute, tenable from 1 September 1992 or such other date as may be arranged.

The Director will provide academic stimulus and leadership in the Institute. In collaboration with existing Schools in the University, he or she will develop undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in European Studies, making use of the modular degree structure currently being introduced. An especially important task of the Director will be to initiate and encourage interdisciplinary research, and identify appropriate sources of funding. He or she will be responsible for organising seminars, conferences and short courses relating to Europe for students, staff, and audiences outside the University. Travel in continental Europe will be required.

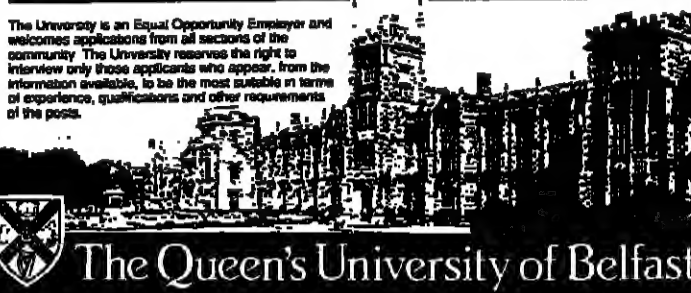
Applicants must possess a good honours degree; have demonstrable teaching, research, publications and administrative experience in a relevant area, and be fluent in at least one continental European language as well as in English. A higher degree relevant to the understanding of the political, legal, social or economic institutions of the European Community, to the development of the EC or the relationship of the EC to the wider Europe, is desirable, as is education in a continental European university or equivalent, or experience of academic administration or working in a European educational, business or similar environment.

Salary on the professorial range, with eligibility for USS. Generous relocation package available as appropriate.

Further particulars (Please quote ref 90/T) are available from the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, BT7 1NN Northern Ireland (telephone (0232) 245133 ext 3044/5044 or fax (0232) 324844).

The University is committed to selection on merit, but as there is an under-representation of women in academic posts, applications from women are particularly welcome.

Closing date: 29 May 1992



COURSES

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TEL: 071-581 4899/584 9696

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Further details from:
The Secretary, L'Ecole Hampshire,
Hampshire Tutorials Ltd,
23 Melton Court, London SW7 3JQ
Tel: 071 584 0744

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF READING DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LECTURER IN ENZYMOLGY

Applications are invited for the above post. Candidates should have active research interests in modern aspects of enzymes and an interest in developing food technology will be particularly welcome. The person appointed will be expected to take an active role in teaching enzymology and related aspects of biochemistry at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Salary scale £12,860 to £17,827 (at Grade A) or £18,572 to £23,739 (at Grade B) plus USS benefits.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor D L Pyle (Telephone 0754 318718).

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AA. Tel (0754) 318751. Please quote Ref AC2210. Closing date 1 June 1992.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

TEMPORARY UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Ref. no. AM/28

The Literae Humaniores Board intends to make an appointment to a Temporary University Lectureship in Roman Archaeology, with particular reference to Roman architecture, for the period 1 October 1992 until 30 September 1994. Salary on the scale £12,860 - £23,739. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary to the Board of the Faculty of Literae Humaniores, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD (telephone 0865 270140), by whom completed applications, including curriculum vitae and the names of three referees (six copies, or one from overseas candidates) should be received by 29 May 1992. Candidates should ask their referees to write directly to the Secretary by the closing date.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

POLYTECHNIC

Faculty of Technology HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS £30180 - £38805 inc.

Applications are invited for the following substantive post of Head of Department of Manufacturing Systems. The department specialises in education, research, consultancy and short course provision in the areas of manufacturing systems engineering, manufacturing management, computer-aided engineering, product design and concurrent engineering. The department presently offers degree programmes of BEng in Manufacturing Systems Engineering and BSc in Manufacturing Systems Management, an MSc in Computer Aided Engineering, a full-time access course in Science and Engineering, and a new degree in Product Design is under preparation.

Applicants should have relevant industrial and academic experience, particularly in manufacturing systems engineering and/or concurrent product design engineering. A strong record of research and publications would be welcomed together with interest in developing further links with European institutions. Suitable applicants will be considered for the title of Professor.

Informal contact may be made with Graham Harvey, Dean of the Faculty on 081 849 3565. Further details and application forms from Personnel Services, Polytechnic of East London, E15 4LZ. Tel 081 590 7722 ext 4321. Please quote ref. no. 17/A/92. Closing date two weeks from publication. The Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

POLYTECHNIC OF EAST LONDON

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Leicester University

Faculty of Law LECTURESHIPS IN LAW

Applications are invited from candidates with interests in any field of law for two lectureships at Lecturer Grade A or B, tenable from 1 September 1992. They will both be for a fixed term of five years. Applicants should have a good honours degree in law, and preferably a postgraduate degree.

One of these lectureships is sponsored by the City Solicitors' Educational Trust. For this post, the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the teaching of Contract or English Legal System, or both. For the other post, which arises as part of the current expansion of the Faculty, no particular areas of interest are required.

Initial salary will depend on qualifications and experience of the Lecturers appointed, will be within Lecturer Grade A scale (£12,860 to £17,827 p.a.) or the Lecturer Grade B scale (£18,572 to £23,739 p.a.).

Further particulars and application form from the Staffing Office (Academic Appointments), University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, telephone (0533) 522438.

Towards equal opportunities

DIRECTIONS WEEK '92 June 30th - July 4th 1992 The Business Design Centre Islington London



THE LONDON GRADUATE RECRUITMENT FAIR 1992

June 30 - July 2
(Organised by The University of London Careers Advisory Service)

For new and recent graduates. Over 100 organisations offering information about jobs now and in the future, and postgraduate courses. European Pavilion, seminars, careers advice, CV, surgery and much more.

30th June 10.00-17.00 1st July 10.00-19.00
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Tel: Exhibitors: 071-387 8221
Visitors: 0800 252183

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July 3rd - 4th 1992
(Organised by News International Exhibitions)

The Schools' Fair is aimed exclusively at school leavers looking for long term career counselling and advice on Higher Education course choice:

- Over 180 exhibitors
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- Organised school parties and individual 6th Form students welcome.

July 3rd 10.00-18.00 July 4th 10.00-17.00
For further details Tel: 071-782 6872

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6.00 **The Channel Four Daily** (8572350)
9.25 **Schools** (43228195)
12.00 **Right to Reply**. A viewer asks why there are no gay characters in television sitcoms (?)
12.30 **Business Daily**. The latest news from the world's money markets (51699)
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series (19824)
2.00 **Flowering Passions**. A repeat of the last in the series in which Anna Pavord meets John Hubbard, a painter and gardener, and Christopher Lloyd, a gardening writer. (Teletext) (9008)
2.30 **Film: Lifeboat** (1944, b/w) Starring Tallulah Bankhead, John Hodiak and William Bendix. Second world war drama about the survivors of a passenger ship torpedoed by an enemy submarine who have to share their lifeboat with the captain of the U-boat that sank the ship. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. (98672973)
4.15 **Pete Smith's Specialities** (b/w). Sporting film clips (9882737)
4.30 **Fifteen To One**. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz game hosted by William G. Stewart (5191)
5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Dublin's music and chat show presented by Gay Byrne (2195)
6.00 **The Cosby Show**. American domestic comedy starring Bill Cosby (Teletext) (176)
6.30 **The Henderson Kids**. Australian family drama series (11756)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** and weather (375806)
7.50 **Comment** (219008)
8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (51924)
8.30 **Evening Show**. Small-town America comedy series starring Bill Reynolds as the local college football coach (8379)

Figure 1. *Phragmites* distribution in the study area.

9.00 Cutting Edge: Paths of Conflict. A documentary look at the conflict between ramblers and landowners over public rights of way. With contributions from representatives of the Ramblers Association and the Landowners' Association, a small but influential organisation which supports the landowners (Teletext) (c) (SBOIS)

10.00 Northern Exposure. Comedy series about a doctor serving a small Alaskan town (6952)

11.00 Films Made and Dreams... Berlin Jerusalem (1989). Israeli film maker Amos Gitai uses the parallel histories of two women, the 1930s German expressionist poet Else Lasker-Schule, played by Iris Kreutzer, and the Russian revolutionary Tania Schochat (Rivka Kneuman), to chart the birth of modern Israel (128922)

12.00 The 12 Apostles. An American television miniseries examining the extraordinary personage of Christ (Kim I Sung, the North Korea leader. Directed by Andrzej Fiolek. t) (554117). Ends at 7.45

Videotape (V) and Video Programme

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video Videotape numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with the appropriate number. To find out more about the Video Videotape service or how to use it, see page 10. For more details call Videorecord on 01-491 4816 per minute plus 30cuff/min) or write to Videorecord, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA, Videotape (V), Videotape (TV) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

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of Taste (FM only): Chris Kelly **5.00 PM**, with Valerie Singleton and

chairs a quiz testing the culinary knowledge of two teams at £02

9.00 Daily Service (LW) only from St Nicholas's Parish Church, Gillingham, Cleveland

9.15 The Bible (LW) only

9.30 Matthew, Derek Jacobi reads the fourth of ten parts

9.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray, on the Mairied Devlin reports on the campaign to end female circumcision. End 11.00 News

9.30 Money Box Live: 071-580 4411, with Vincent Dugrèby. This has open from 10am, with John Howard

9.30pm Britain Briefing 1992: First Round - London and Home Counties. Robert Crouncher chairs the general knowledge contest (S) 12.55 Weather

6.00 6.00 Clock News

6.30 The News Quiz (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme (FM only), presented by Derek Cooper (r)

7.50-8.00 Smith on Old Age (FM only); Phil Smith looks at the retirement years (r)

7.20 Woman's Hour (LW) only (r)

8.00 The Monday Night Show Must Go. Martin Wright's portrait of the effects of war on young men is drawn from his experiences at Cambridge in 1945

8.15 With Stephen Pym as Charles Simpson and Alan 'Wicks as Keith Drinkel (s)

9.30 Kaleidoscope (s) (r)

9.45 The Financial World Tonight, with Roger White (s) (r) Weather

10.00 The World Tonight with

11.00 News; Missing Woman: In Michael Z. Lewin's play, private eye Albert Samson becomes disheartened when he is confronted within an hour by two murderers. With Colin Stinton (s) (r)

12.00 A Proper Limitation (FIM)

12.30 The Archers (1) 1.35 Shipping Forecast

1.00 News; Missing Woman: In Michael Z. Lewin's play, private eye Albert Samson becomes disheartened when he is confronted within an hour by two murderers. With Colin Stinton (s) (r)

1.30 Diamond as Big as the Ritz; F. Scott Fitzgerald. Garrick Hagon reads the first of five episodes

11.00 The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy: An epic adventure in time and space, written by Douglas Adams (3 of 6) (s) (r)

11.30 Strong Armistice: The third of

06 The Archers (11.35) Shipping Forecast
06 News: Missing Woman (In Michael J. Lewin's play, private eye Albert Samson becomes disheartened when he is confronted within an hour by two killers. With Colin Stinton (3) (1)

06 A Proper Limitation (FM only): A portrait by Georgina Boyes of Alice Bertha Gomme, one of the founders of folklore studies in Britain (3) (1)

30-40 Visiting Lions (FM only): The biographer Margaret Forster talks about her work Diamond as Big as the Ritz, by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Garrick Hagon reads the first of five episodes
11.30 The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy: An epic adventure in time and space, written by Douglas Adams (3 of 6) (1)

11.30 Sweet Adelaide: The third of four programmes in which singer Adelaide Hall tells of her life
12.00 12.43am News, and **12.27 Weather 12.23 Shipping Forecast 12.43 World Service (LW only)**

SOURCES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 1068kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 88-90.2. Radio 3: FM 90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 1383kHz/285m; 1548kHz/276m; FM 96.5. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/333m. LBC: 1115kHz/276m; FM 97.3. Radio 6: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GUR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: 1548kHz/463m.

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White heat

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